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MONDAY
20p
MONDAY

Industry faces new threat of recession

Bank Holiday trading will boost pound

By JANET BUSH, CHARLES BREMNER AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE pound is expected to soar in unusual Bank Holiday trading today, bringing a new threat of recession to the manufacturing industry after the weekend's messy compromise over who should lead the new Central European Bank.

The rest of Europe faces the prospect of a concerted rise in interest rates as central bankers move to restore the credibility of the single currency project.

Hundreds of extra dealers have been drafted in for holiday trading in the City to handle possible pressure on the euro currencies and demand for sterling and economists predicted volatile and nervous markets as traders tried to make sense of the weekend's events.

The economics community had looked on with incredulity at the Brussels summit where horse-trading, personality and national ego overshadowed what should have been the public relations triumph to launch the euro.

A midnight deal ended with the naming of Wim Duisenberg of The Netherlands as the first president of the European Central Bank. Under the terms of the Maastricht treaty he must be appointed for eight years, but he immediately promised to step down after four in favour of Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Banque de France.

Tony Blair, who chaired the summit, President Chirac, Chancellor Kohl and Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, all claimed to be satisfied with the deal. But it was greeted with contempt by the European Parliament and opposition politicians and commentators across Europe. Tory MEPs threatened to mount a legal challenge, while some of the smaller member

states accused Tony Blair of mishandling the Franco-German clash that had led to the compromise and Viktor Klima, the Austrian Chancellor, said the day had been an exercise in "how not to organise a summit".

The solution, which involved Mr Duisenberg reading out a statement of his intention to retire "for personal reasons" in 2002, brought guffaws from the 2,000 journalists

who had waited for the summit to stagger through the night.

But Mr Blair insisted that there had been no "fudge or fix". The delicate compromise was "a very, very significant gain, maintaining entirely the sanctity of the treaty". Herr Kohl, who is fighting an uphill battle for re-election, said: "Whether you like it or not, this is an historic day. It's done. The euro is here."

Economists across Europe were, however, vocal in their dismay about the deal. "Short of taking a full-page ad in *The Times*, their displeasure couldn't have been

clearer," Julian Jessop, chief European economist at Nikko Europe, said. "If the markets react badly, the Bundesbank will take the earliest possible opportunity to restore credibility and raise interest rates."

Richard Reid, head of European economics at SBC Warburg Dillon Read agreed. He thought the Bundesbank would push for a coordinated rise in interest rates within weeks: "The central bankers are going to be saying 'It is up to us now; we have got to show we are in command'."

"What this weekend has shown so graphically is that we may have squeezed these 11 guys into the narrow neck of a bottle so that the euro goes ahead, but that Europe's problems are now about to begin."

Other analysts predicted that the currency markets would punish the ineptitude of the politicians by selling the mark and its euro-satellites. That would mean that the pound, which had been falling last week in anticipation of a smooth start to the euro, could be on the rise again.

For months, British exporters had looked on helplessly as sterling soared to its highest levels for nine years — largely because of uncertainty about the single currency. Investors had bought the pound as a "safe haven", but the buying started to dry up amid optimism about the summit and last week, sterling was quoted at DM2.9640, its lowest level for two months.

However, with the weekend's events confirming many of the market's suspicions about the euro and doubts about the independence of the new central bank, City economists are predicting that ster-

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Tara O'Connor will welcome leaders to the G8 summit in Birmingham on Friday. Preview, page 10

IN BRIEF

Arsenal win Premiership

Arsenal won the Premiership soccer title for the first time in seven years yesterday with a crushing 4-0 win over Everton in front of their own fans in North London. The 38,000 fans packed into Highbury erupted into wild celebrations at full time. Marc Overmars, the Dutch midfielder, scored two goals. Pages 25 and 27

Mary Bell's confession

After 30 years, Mary Bell finally confessed that she killed the two boys, according to an extract from Gitta Sereny's book *Cries Unheard*. The disclosure came as Ms Sereny promised that "excess profits" from her book would go to children's charities. *Cries Unheard*... Page 17 Letters... Page 21

BA prepares to fly Airbus

British Airways is preparing to shift its historic links with Boeing by making a ground-breaking deal with rival aircraft manufacturer Airbus Industrie. A £2 billion order planned by British Airways has put the two aircraft manufacturers head-to-head for the contract... Page 48

CROSSWORD £600 of prizes

JUMBO

Page 43

Family free in Yemen

A British family were freed yesterday after being held by Yemeni tribesmen for two weeks.

David and Carolyn Mitchell and their son, Ben, aged 14, who live in Sidley, East Sussex, were expected at the British embassy in the capital Sana'a last night. They were kidnapped on April 17. The tribesmen had demanded a ransom. The intervention of a Yemeni businessman appeared to have led to the family's release.

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Fugitive Fashanu is found dead

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE apparent suicide of Justin Fashanu, 37, the footballer on the run from American police for allegedly sexually assaulting a 17-year-old boy, has stunned those who saw him happily leaving a gay sauna hours earlier.

The body of the former Nottingham Forest striker — he became the first £1 million black footballer on transferring there from Norwich City in 1981 — was found apparently hanging from car park rafters underneath an east London railway arch, opposite the homosexual club.

Mr Fashanu, a born-again Christian, was facing 20 years' jail if found guilty of the assault. The youth had told police he awoke in bed after a drinking session to find the sportsman performing a sexual act on him. A medical examination appeared to confirm the youth did have sex,



Fashanu: threatened with US jail term

London peace talks on Mid-East look doomed

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT arrived in London last night as America intensified efforts to avert a breakdown of today's Middle East talks that many participants were already dismissing as doomed.

Amid clear signs that Tony Blair is distancing himself from the talks that he himself proposed during his recent visit to Israel, the American Secretary of State joined Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, at a private dinner where they planned an agenda to rescue the deadlocked Middle East peace process.

Mr Blair, Mr Cook and Ms Albright will today urge Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to compromise over the amount of occupied territory from which Israeli forces will withdraw.

In Cairo, Vice-President Albert Gore said after talks with President Mubarak that despite an extraordinary chance to secure an agreement there remained a long way to go. Washington has given a public warning that if the talks fail it may abandon its mediation efforts.

Downing Street and the Foreign Office made clear that America, rather than Britain, was the main intermediary.

The Americans were saying little in advance about the talks, due to begin at the Grosvenor House hotel in London at 10am. Face-to-face negotiations between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat are unlikely. The main hope is that they can be persuaded to split the difference on the amount of territory transferred to Palestinian control between the 13 per cent that

Fat cat lawyers enjoy cream of London restaurants

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

IF lawyers are truly fat cats, then it is not because of their legal aid earnings but their dining habits.

A survey out this week has found that lawyers are lunching and dining in a big way, spending £70 million a year on restaurants. The legal magazine *In Brief* says that 80 per cent of lawyers view the business lunch or dinner as an important marketing tool.

Its telephone research of 150 lawyers found that a partner in a City law firm eats out for business purposes on average seven times a month at a cost of £40 per head. On top of that, the City lawyer eats out 1.75 times a week, spending some £65 per two people.

Top in the popularity stakes is the Oxo Tower restaurant on the South Bank, "expensive, but not terribly expensive", according to the legal fraternity, although some were disenchanted that tables had to be booked four weeks ahead. City Rhodes, New Street Square, was a close second, and The Ivy and Quaglinos were also often mentioned.

But clients who want to impress their lawyers should beware. *Le Gavroche*, reports the survey, received "a frightful summation" on grounds of price, although quality was highly rated.

"If I started going to *Le Gavroche* all the time," one City lawyer is quoted as saying, "my managing partner would speak to me fairly quickly."

To drink or not to drink remains an issue: many have cut out the aperitifs but otherwise go for a modest amount of wine. "Do as the client does," seems to be the rule.

With earnings of a newly qualified solicitor now reaching £25,000, a partner in his or her mid-thirties able to command £90,000 and older partners getting anything from £300,000 a year to £1 million in some cases, the restaurant market is rich in opportunity. *In Brief* plans to launch a guide to London restaurants and to send a copy to 14,000 lawyers in 2,000 central London law firms.

The lunching network is not for everyone. High Street practitioners still content themselves with a sandwich at their desks or a pint at the local.

Law Report, page 43

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Cook faces Commons row over arms deal licences

Nicholas Wood says Sierra Leone could become another Iraq crisis

ROBIN COOK will come under pressure tomorrow to make a Commons statement about an alleged breach of the United Nations arms embargo on Sierra Leone.

Opposition spokesmen turned on the Foreign Secretary yesterday after it was confirmed that Customs and Excise is conducting an inquiry into claims that British civil servants secretly sanctioned the supply of weapons and mercenaries by a London company, Sandline International.

Amid speculation that the affair could mirror the arms-to-Iraq scandal, John Redwood, the Shadow President of the Board of Trade, said that the inquiry was "another body blow" to Mr Cook's "ethical" foreign policy. He was pressing for a full Commons statement by the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Cook said that the Foreign Office had asked Customs and Excise to mount an inquiry two months ago. "I made it clear I want the Foreign Office to co-operate fully and openly with that investigation. I do not want any suggestion of cover-up," he said on BBC radio.

Sandline International, which is run by Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, a former British Army officer, claimed that the Foreign Office cleared

its activities. But yesterday the Foreign Office said that "no ministerial approval" had been given for Sandline's involvement in a successful military operation which restored civilian rule in Sierra Leone in March.

Mr Cook said: "What I can confirm is that our own investigation quite clearly shows that there was no ministerial approval for any activity by Sandline, no contact by ministers with Sandline, no discussion by ministers with Sandline and we will robustly resist any claim that there was."

But Mr Redwood said Ministers could not hide behind their officials if either the Foreign Office or the Department of Trade and Industry had given Sandline the go-ahead to ship arms and ammunition from Bulgaria.

"If officials have given approval, it won't wash for Ministers to say that they did not give approval. Officials only work for and on behalf of Ministers."

Richard Slowe, a solicitor acting for Sandline and for Colonel Spicer, said that no offence had been committed. In a statement last night, Colonel Spicer said he had had Government approval for Sandline's involvement and indicated that he had been



A bodyguard to Johnny Paul Koromah, who overthrew President Kabbah's government in a military coup. Koromah was himself ousted in March

granted an export licence for the arms and ammunition used in the operation.

He said: "Sandline and I understood and still believe that we were acting with the approval of Her Majesty's Government in assisting to restore President Kabbah who had been overthrown last year in an unlawful coup by a military junta and have been advised that accordingly no offence has been committed."

"President Kabbah's government has at all times

remained the only internationally recognised lawful government of Sierra Leone."

But a UN resolution passed last October and incorporated into British law prohibits the supply of arms to Sierra Leone. Peter Penfold, the British High Commissioner in Freetown, has returned to London to assist with the inquiry. It has been reported that Mr Penfold held talks with Sandline last year.

Customs and Excise said the inquiry could stretch to inter-

viewing Foreign Office Ministers. The inquiry could also fan tensions between Mr Cook's Ministry and the Department of Trade and Industry under Margaret Beckett if it turns out that the Foreign Office gave the go-ahead. They clashed recently over reprocessing of foreign nuclear waste at Dounreay.

The inquiry stems from the overthrow in March of the former military ruler in Sierra Leone, Johnny Paul Koromah, and the restoration of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. Mr Slowe admitted that his client supplied arms to the Nigerian-backed west African states' monitoring group — Ecomog — that helped reinstate President Kabbah.

He said: "There is no question that my client supplied arms from eastern Europe to Ecomog." He added that President Kabbah, while still in exile last year, had been Mr Blair's guest at the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh and that Britain had always

Landmine Bill puts Cook at odds with Cabinet colleague

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK and Ann Taylor, the Leader of the Commons, are embroiled in a dispute over delays in placing a ban on landmines on the statute book. The Foreign Secretary has written a series of letters to his Cabinet colleague since Ms Taylor made clear that there was no parliamentary time available for a Landmines Bill this year.

Ms Taylor fully backs the measure, which would incorporate the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines into British law, but she says that the Government's packed legislative programme means that there is no time for another Bill.

The rushed legislation to establish an assembly in Northern Ireland — in the event of a "yes" vote in this month's referendum — has added such pressure to the parliamentary timetable that MPs may have to cut short their summer recess.

It is expected that a Landmines Bill will be unveiled in the Queen's Speech in the autumn. This would mean that the landmines ban, which was championed by Diana, Princess of Wales, will not be ratified by the anniversary of her death on August 31.

Britain was one of the first countries to sign the Ottawa Treaty, banning antipersonnel landmines, last December. Mr Cook is determined that the treaty should be ratified quickly because he believes that the measure is a crucial element of his "ethical foreign policy".

A government spokesman declined to comment on the dispute between Mr Cook and Ms Taylor. "We do not comment on business management decisions," the spokesman said.

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman, said there was no excuse for delaying the ratification of the treaty.

"There is no reason why the ratification should be delayed. There is all-party support in the House of Commons and all the Government has to do is to seek agreement for fast-tracking," he said.

Mercenary whose work is danger

By NICHOLAS WOOD

COLONEL Tim Spicer, the former British Army officer at the centre of the arms-to-Sierra Leone inquiry, is no stranger to danger or controversy.

A year ago he narrowly escaped with his life after leading a team of mercenaries on a botched mission to put down an uprising in Papua New Guinea.

Li-Col Spicer's company, Sandline International, was paid £22 million for supplying "equipment and assistance" to the Government of Papua New Guinea for helping quell a rebellion on the island of Bougainville. But

the operation went wrong when the local army chief denounced the deal, forced the resignation of the Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan, and detained the Sandline force.

Li-Col Spicer, 45, was held hostage, then handed over to the police and charged with a firearms offence. After the charge was dropped, he returned to Britain and claimed he had cheated death several times after being captured by local troops.

He said on his return: "I was subjected to illegal arrest and was deprived of my basic human rights, such as the ability to contact my embassy and my family. I was physically assaulted, suffered in-

timidation and was subject to death threats. I had an automatic revolver put to my head on three occasions and threatened with my life."

Sandline International is registered in the Bahamas and operates from smart offices in King's Road, Chelsea. It says that its role in Papua New Guinea was merely to "guide" the country's army through its operations against secessionist guerrillas.

"There is an image of a mercenary of an unsavoury kind," Li-Col Spicer has said. "I'm talking about the freebooters who were in it for the money and the fun."

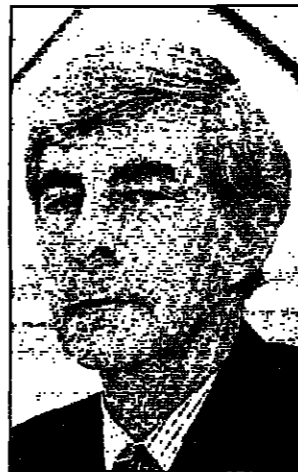


Colonel Tim Spicer: "my life threatened"

PETER PENFOLD, the British High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, was dubbed the "hero of Hell City" last year for his role in securing the evacuation of 800 British and other Europeans (Nicholas Wood writes).

In an audacious bluff, he warned rebel leaders that he would call in the US Marines from a ship patrolling offshore unless they stopped shelling an hotel in the capital Freetown, where the Westerners had taken refuge.

Afterwards, Mr Penfold said: "It was a total bluff. I didn't know if I could get in touch with the ship and I certainly had no authority to order in American troops."



Penfold: secured civilian evacuation

'The hero of Hell City'

By JEFFREY LEE, page 20

The play worked and the Revolutionary United Front ordered a ceasefire enabling the High Commission to move people to safety.

Mr Penfold, who has weathered two coups in Uganda, a revolution in Ethiopia and a war in Nigeria, was later thanked by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Tony Blair.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that he would assist with the Customs and Excise inquiry into the alleged breach of the UN arms embargo. It has been suggested that Mr Penfold asked Li Col Spicer to help organise the counter-coup against the military regime.

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Prescott scathing over car criticism

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT yesterday dismissed a Downing Street official as a "teenybopper" after the young adviser criticised the Deputy Prime Minister's plans to force millions of motorists to leave their cars at home.

Asked whether he could dismiss someone who has the ear of the Prime Minister, Mr Prescott paused, then mumbled: "Well, watch this space."

Mr Prescott spoke out after it was disclosed that Mr Norris, a senior adviser in the Downing Street Policy Unit, wrote to Mr Prescott to complain that his proposed White Paper on transport was too green and too anti-car.

The White Paper, due in June, is expected to give councils powers to levy "congestion charges" on motorists who bring cars into towns and cities at peak times.

Independent peers oppose reform plan

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR'S plans to reform the House of Lords were thrown into doubt last night after it emerged that fierce and unexpected opposition to the move is growing among crossbench peers.

A secret report drawn up by senior crossbenchers shows that the independent peers have come out firmly against the Government's plan to expel hereditary peers without reforming the rest of the House at the same time.

Many of the peers, who have no party allegiance, are threatening to vote against the Government's first stage Bill to abolish the sitting and voting rights of hereditary peers when it is introduced this autumn. If the 325-strong crossbenchers united with many of the Tory hereditary backbench peers to oppose reform, they could easily defeat the Government and delay any changes for a year.

The report, which has been obtained by *The Times*, was drawn up by a committee of senior crossbenchers which has been gathering views. The document was sent last week to crossbenchers, who are expected to support it at a meeting in the Lords this month.

The committee, which is known as the Philosophy Group and is chaired by Lord Chalfont, says reform should happen in one single move.

Sterling set to soar after euro deal

Continued from page 1

ling could once again hit DM3, virtually guaranteeing that British manufacturing will slump into recession.

The first political test of the deal will come on Thursday when the European Parliament opens what is its de facto as an American Senate-style hearing on Mr Duisenberg and his board. Although the Parliament has no veto over the appointments, its opinion will influence the credibility of the project. Jose Maria Gil-Robles, the president, depicted as "the birth of a deformed baby" and said there was no doubt that it broke the Maastricht treaty. Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, claimed, however, that the leaders had managed to stay within the rules.

THE NEW EURO RATES

CURRENCY	100 Punt	100 Lux francs	100 German marks	100 Spanish pesetas	100 French francs	1000 Italian lire	100 Dutch guilders	100 Portuguese escudos	100 Austrian schillings	100 Finnish markka
Irish punt	1.9523	40.268	0.4733	12.006	0.4067	35.730	0.3928	5.7235	13.246	
Belgium/Lux franc	51.221	206.62	24.245	614.98	20.834	1830.5	20.121	293.16	678.47	
German mark	2.4834	4.8484		1.1755	29.816	1.0101	88.752	0.9786	14.214	32.895
Spanish peseta	211.27	412.48	8507.2		253.65	85.931	7550.3	82.993	1209.2	2796.4
French franc	8.3289	16.261	335.39	3.9424		3.3877	297.86	3.2719	47.670	110.32
Italian lire	2458.6	4799.9	99000	1183.7	2851.8		3786.4	985.81	14071	32586
Dutch guilder	2.7981	5.4628	112.67	1.3244	33.599	1.1381		1.0992	18.015	37.064
Portuguese escudo	254.56	496.98	10280	120.49	3056.3	103.54	9097.5		14659	3371.9
Austrian schilling	17.472	34.111	703.55	8.2701	209.77	7.1066	624.42	6.0636		231.43
Finnish markka	7.5495	14.739	304.00	3.5734	90.642	3.0707	269.81	2.9657	43.209	

THE TIMES MONDAY
Knock
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Knockout blow rekindles boxing furore

Title fighter undergoes three-hour operation to remove blood clot on his brain after being knocked down for second time, report Adam Fresco and Srikumar Sen

A BOXER was in a critical condition yesterday after a three-hour operation to remove a blood clot from his brain. Spencer Oliver, 23, who was defending his European super-bantamweight title at the Albert Hall on Saturday, was taken to hospital after being knocked down for the second time in the tenth round.



Oliver before the defence of his title

Oliver, from Barnet, North London, who had won all his previous 14 fights, was floored in the first round but got up quickly and continued fighting. He was ahead on points when he was caught by a big right-hand punch from his opponent, the Ukrainian Sergei Devakov, that sent him crashing to the canvas. He got up but fell back almost immediately.

The medical team of Dr Alistair Skelly, a consultant anaesthetist, Mr Paul Banwell, a surgeon, and Dr Steven

Shapiro, of the British Boxing Board of Control, were quickly at his side. Oliver received oxygen sitting on the floor but gradually became unconscious and slipped on to his side. He was given an injection to relax him and was put in a neck brace before being

taken by stretcher to a waiting ambulance. The whole operation took 15 minutes.

Oliver, named Young Boxer of the Year ten days ago, was originally taken to the Charing Cross Hospital but was later transferred to the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London, which specialises in brain injuries.

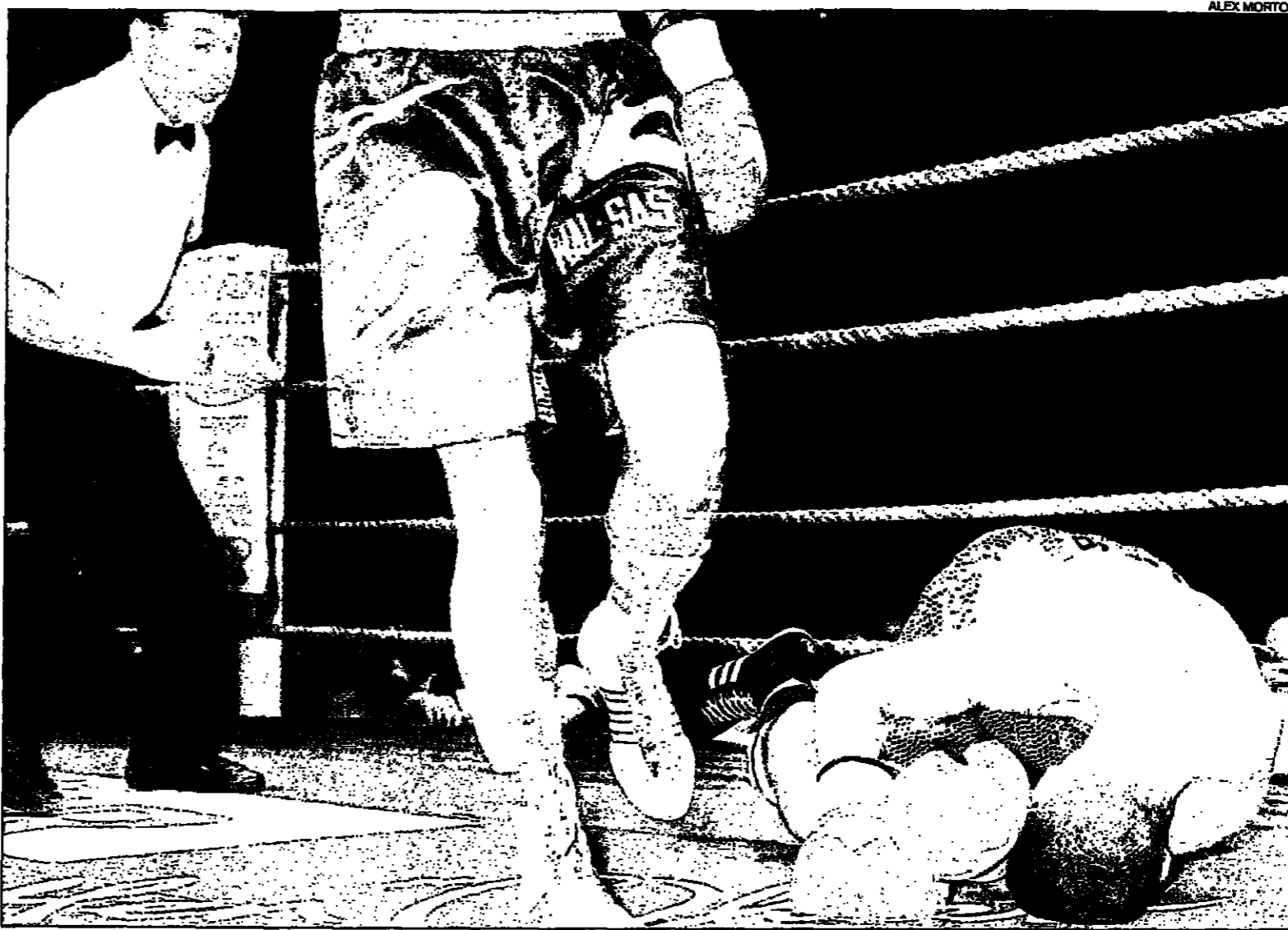
The fight was the first one his father, Jimmy, had missed and he was yesterday flying back from Las Vegas where he had been with the Finchley Amateur Boxing Club. The rest of his family were at his bedside.

The consultant neurosurgeon who operated on Oliver said a blood clot on the right side of his brain had been removed. James Palmer said: "The blood clot was caused by a torn blood vessel at the back of the brain. He remains fully sedated and on a ventilator and his condition is critical."

Mr Palmer added that the boxer would be kept asleep for at least two to three days while doctors waited for his injuries to stabilise. "The injury is potentially life threatening but his family are with him at this difficult time. His family would wish for privacy over the next few days."

Oliver, nicknamed the Omen, was a silver medalist at the Commonwealth Games in Canada in 1994.

The injury is bound to raise more questions about the safety of the sport and whether fighters should be made to wear head protection or whether the number of rounds fought should be limited. It could be significant that the seven cases of serious brain injuries suffered by box-



Spencer Oliver on the canvas after an early knockdown during his fight with Sergei Devakov at the Albert Hall on Saturday night

ers in a British ring in the past seven years were all sustained in the late stages of the contest. A spokesman for the British Medical Association said: "The serious nature of the injury to this boxer would seem to underline the stance the BMA takes against boxing. While the head remains a target we think the activity of boxing should be banned

because of previous evidence of irreversible accumulative damage to the brain and eyes. The only way we think boxing can be acceptable is to take the head out of the legitimate target area."

Procedures laid down for the British Boxing Board of Control after the tragic contest between Nigel Benn and Gerald McClellan in 1995, which

left McClellan with severe brain damage, emphasised the need for removal of an unconscious boxer from arena to hospital within an hour, to give the fighter the best chance of recovery. Oliver was taken to the National in about that time.

In June last year, Chris Henry, a cruiserweight from Tottenham and from the same stable as Oliver, suffered a similar head injury. Thanks to prompt action by paramedics, he is making a remarkable recovery. Four months later, another boxer, Carl Wright, a light welterweight from Liverpool who was taken directly to hospital by his cornermen after collapsing in the car on his way home, is leading a normal life today.

The incident comes two weeks after Chris Eubank was treated in hospital after his defeat in a gruelling 12 round cruiserweight championship contest. The former WBO middleweight and super-middleweight champion was taken by ambulance to the Manchester Royal Infirmary suffering from severe bruising to an eye.



Oliver's mother is comforted after his injury

Adulterous officer sent home to await sack

BY A CORRESPONDENT

AN ARMY officer acquitted by a court martial of scandalous conduct after an affair with a Wren officer has been suspended from duty, the Ministry of Defence confirmed yesterday. The suspension could lead to Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Pople's dismissal from the Armed Forces.

Last month a five-man military tribunal at Aldershot ruled that Colonel Pople had not prejudiced good order by sleeping with Lieutenant-Commander Karen Pearce while evaluating her work.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "His commanding officer suspended him while considering what administrative action might be appropriate. The decision to suspend rests with the CO and may be taken when a matter appears to reflect adversely on an officer's conduct or character."

Administrative action is similar to the process in civilian life for dismissing staff whose performance falls below acceptable standards. The MoD spokesman added: "Any appropriate administrative action will be considered by the CO, and if the decision is taken to proceed it will be processed through the chain of command. We are not able to discuss the matter further as it is in confidence between the officer and his CO."

Colonel Pople, 42, admitted beginning an affair with Commander Pearce, 34, in 1993, while sharing a Whitehall office at the Ministry of Defence. Both were married.

Car commercial included winking Diana lookalike

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE London chief of a Korean car company pledged yesterday that a television commercial featuring a woman chased by paparazzi would be scrapped if it risked causing offence.

In any event, the controversial commercial — at one stage planned to feature a model who looked like Diana, Princess of Wales — will never be shown in Britain, said Jaibum You.

The agency making the commercial for the Kia Shuma car had hired an English Diana lookalike, Nicky Lilley, to take part in a sequence in which the car would escape photographers riding motorcycles.

She walked out in disgust after learning the details of the advertisement, which was to have ended with her winking at the camera as if to suggest that the Princess would still be alive if she had been in a Kia. Mr You, UK representative



Nicky Lilley: walked out in disgust

for the Kia Motor Corporation, South Korea's second largest car-maker, said: "I was really shocked when I heard of the Diana lookalike idea, and I have been trying to find out the facts."

The link with the crash in Paris which killed the Princess had not been approved by the company, he insisted. "A Korean advertising agency which works for Kia in its domestic market presented to the company the idea of a film with paparazzi chasing a model using our new Shuma car — and not catching her."

"Paparazzi on motorcycles are a well-known problem in Korea. They give a lot of trouble to our sports people and other celebrities. Koreans would not necessarily link them with Diana's death."

The advertisement was to be made in the United States and at some stage agency people had the idea of using a Diana lookalike to give an added twist, said Mr You. "It was totally the agency's idea. When they realised that this could cause big trouble, a lot of damage to the company, they scrapped it."

Mark Quinn, managing director of Kia (UK), welcomed Mr You's findings, but said he intended to contact the head office in Korea. "We were appalled at the insensitivity of the idea of making an advertisement linked with the death of the Princess, even though it would obviously never be shown here."

Letters, page 21

EU minister hunts rubber duck to near extinction

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE rubber duck is heading for extinction if the EU Commissioner Emma Bonino gets her way. Dr Bonino, responsible for consumer affairs, wants to protect the health of infant Europeans by banning all toys made of PVC, a plastic used for over 40 years.

She believes that the toys are such a threat that she has invoked emergency powers, designed to deal with the BSE crisis, to press for an immediate ban.

Her plans have enraged the toy industry, which claims they have no scientific basis. "If this goes ahead it will kill a great number of companies," said Maurits Bruggink, of

Toys Industry Europe, a Brussels-based industry group. "Forty per cent of all toys contain PVC and there are no alternatives." Soft PVC is used for teething rings, dolls, inflatable beach toys, balls and paddling pools. The British Plastics Federation has condemned attacks on PVC toys as "irresponsible scaremongering".

Fears over the safety of PVC toys emerged after studies in Denmark, which suggested that the plasticiser used to make soft PVC could "break out" of the plastic if sucked by a child. The material used, a phthalate, is one of dozens identified as possible "gender-

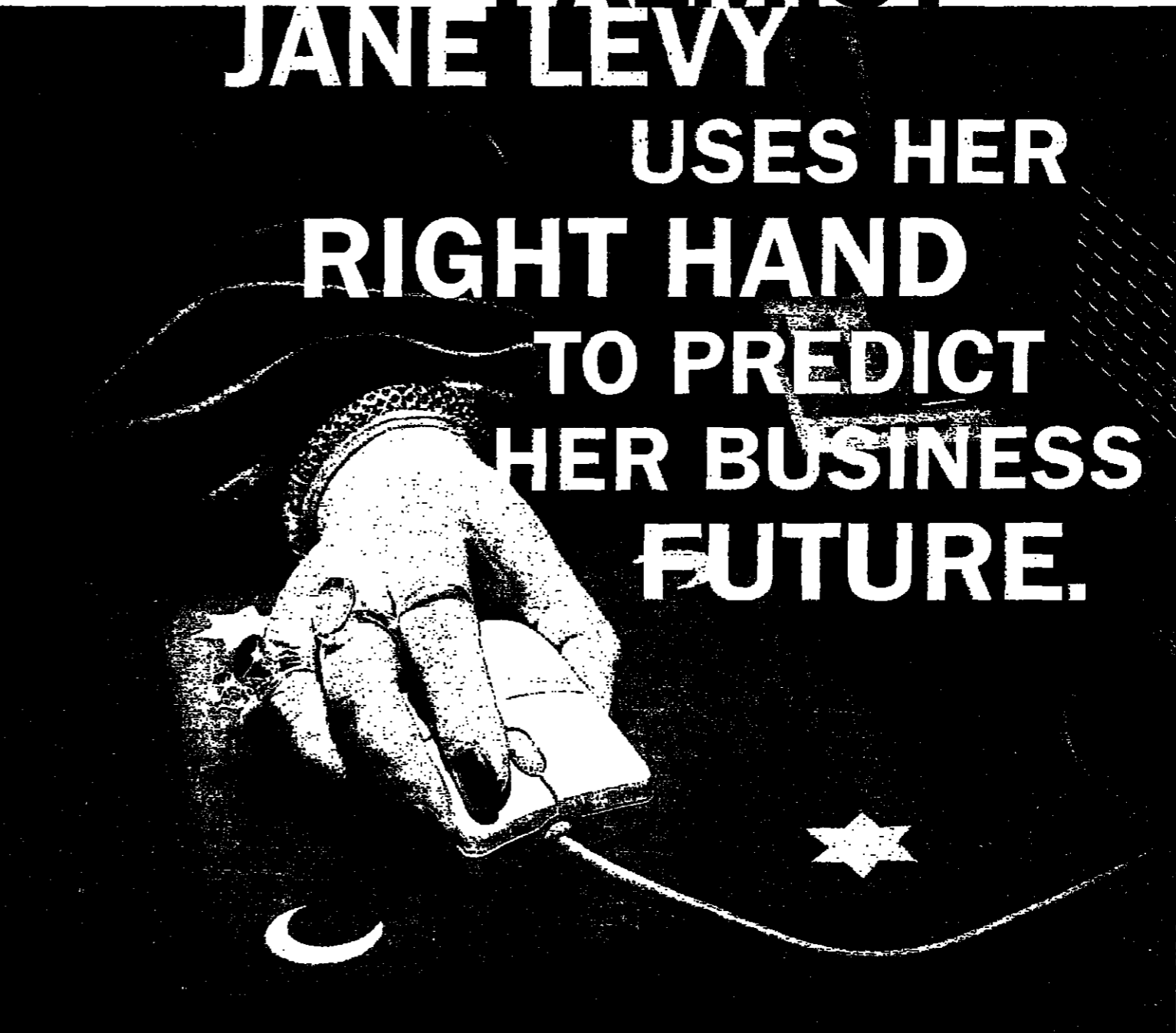
bending" chemicals which mimic the behaviour of natural hormones.

These chemicals have been blamed for unnatural changes in wildlife, including changes of sex among fish, and linked by some scientists to declining sperm counts in humans. After Denmark pressed for a ban on PVC toys, and the case was taken up by Greenpeace, the EU began to examine the evidence. The data is expected to be completed soon.

EU lawyers have expressed concern at Dr Bonino's actions, arguing that they cannot be justified by the evidence available.



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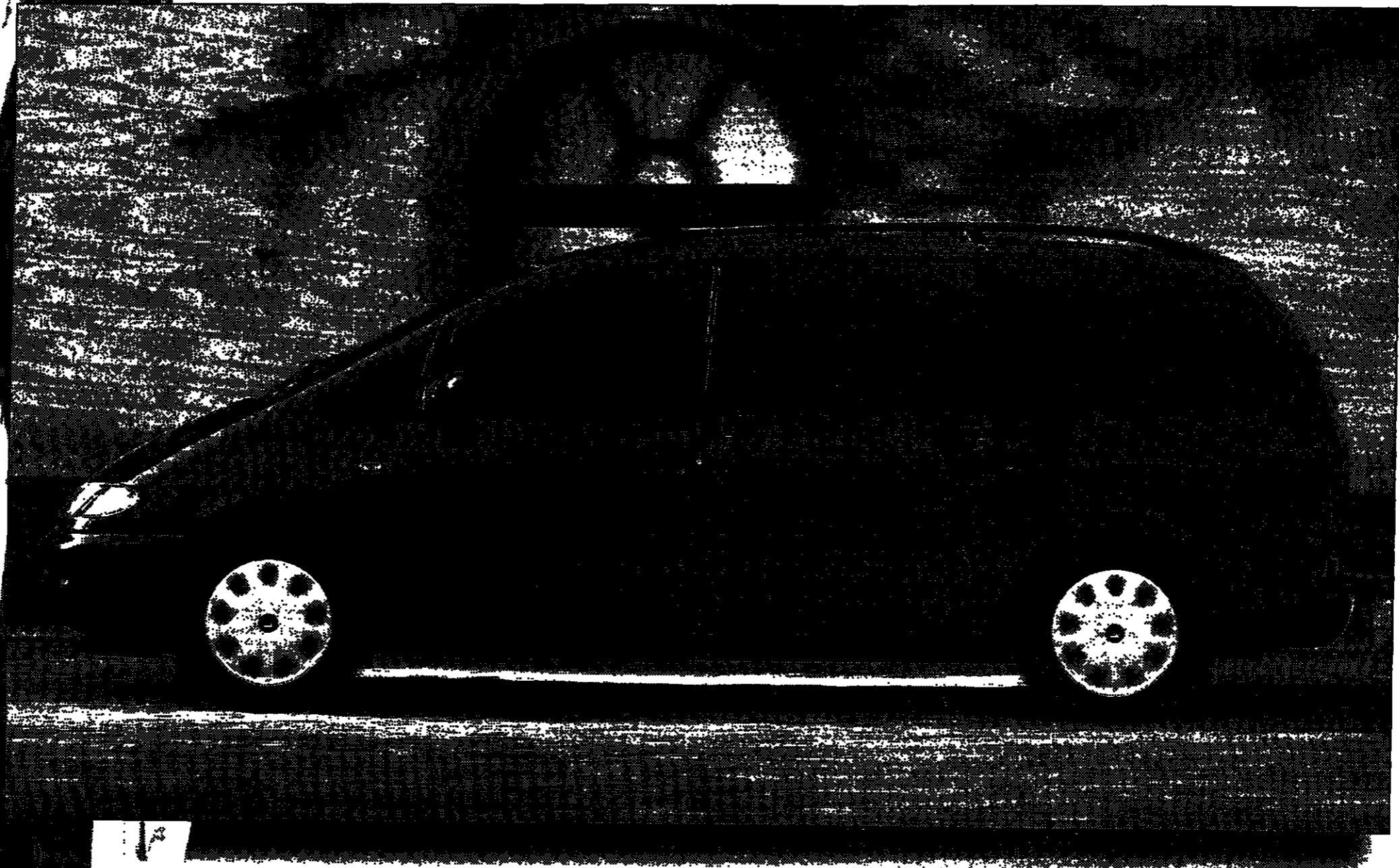
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THE TIMES/DILLONS
An evening
Toni Morrison

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TONI MORRISON

Form with fields for name, address, and contact information.

Fashanu's final happy hours in a gay club

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

JUSTIN FASHANU spent four hours in Britain's biggest homosexual health club, joked with staff, shaved and smartened himself up, apparently carefree, on the night before he was found hanging from a railway arch a few yards away.

As Scotland Yard sources yesterday suggested there were no suspicious circumstances to the footballer's death, those who had been with him during his final hours were unable to believe that the 37-year-old had been suicidal.

Mr Fashanu's body was found the day after the British media reported that he was wanted by police in the United States for allegedly molesting a drunken 17-year-old boy. It had been reported that the Americans were prepared to seek Fashanu's extradition to face a possible 20-year jail sentence for sexual assault.

It had been more than a month since the alleged attack on the boy. There is no reason to believe Mr Fashanu knew a warrant had been issued on April 3 for his arrest after police learned his flat in Elliott, Maryland, had been abandoned.

Among the gay community around Shoreditch, East London, where Mr Fashanu's body was discovered, there are fears that the footballer may

have had a "helping hand" in the apparent suicide.

Mr Fashanu was at Charities' Roman Spa, a male bathhouse, from 3pm to 7pm on Friday. The all-night health club charges £12 for entry and is popular with businessmen and visitors from the Continent. Mr Fashanu, a newcomer, was seen in the sauna area.

David Pollard, the landlord of The Joiners' Arms, a gay pub in the vicinity, has spoken to people who were at the spa on Friday afternoon.

He said: "Justin Fashanu was extremely chirpy. He was chatty when he went in, chatty and pleasant when he went out. The guy on reception was seen talking to him, saying 'Where do I know you from?' The footballer gave him a few clues and the receptionist said 'You're Justin Fashanu.'"

"Before he left, Justin Fashanu was seen going to one of the guys working there and asked to borrow shaving foam. He went off, had a shave and was looking spick-and-span when he left, which is an odd thing when someone is going to commit suicide. He seemed quite happy. He had deliberately spruced himself up."

"Do people shave before they go off and commit suicide? Why do you want to look your best? The people who saw him before he died simply

do not believe he killed himself."

At noon on Saturday, police were called by a passer-by to the railway arches in Fairchild Place where they found the footballer's body, apparently hanged. A post-mortem examination is believed to have blamed death on strangulation by hanging.

The alleged assault on the teenager in America was the latest in a series of scandals, many of them the product of Mr Fashanu's own fertile imagination.

The actress Julie Goodyear, who played Bet Gilroy in *Coronation Street*, yesterday accused Mr Fashanu of "telling a lot of lies about me for money". He had claimed they were lovers. "The only relationship I ever had with Justin was one of friendship but he claimed it was a sexual relationship which was not true."



Miss Bell with her husband, Peter Bracken, left, and her father after her wedding yesterday

Daughter of MP marries campaign co-worker

By LUCY LAWRENCE

MELISSA BELL, daughter of the Independent MP Martin Bell, yesterday married the former army major she met while managing her father's election campaign last year.

Miss Bell, 25, fell for Peter Bracken, 37, who was sent from Labour's election headquarters to join the fight. Mr Bracken proposed two months later over a bowl of pasta.

The bride arrived on the arm of her father at the 13th-century St Oswald's Church in Lower Peover, Cheshire.

Mr Bell said he found his daughter's wedding as nerve-racking as covering some war zones. "I'm having a 'father of the bride' nightmare," he said after the service. "I have to give a speech and I just hope people will listen. But it is one of the happiest days of my life — she is marrying a wonderful guy. Quite by chance I have got a seat in Parliament and a son-in-law all in the past year."

Rejections led to a life in freefall

By SIMON BARNES

JUSTIN FASHANU'S brief and unifying life is a kind of Hogarthian morality tale; except it is not really clear what the moral is. Is it something to do with the quotidian cruelties of sport? Or of family life?

There were perhaps two defining moments in Fashanu's life. The first was when his father abandoned his family to return to Nigeria. Justin and his brother, John, became Barnardo's boys, and were later adopted. The story almost turned into a fairytale. Both became professional footballers; Justin was the more spectacularly gifted.

Enter disaster, and the second defining moment, in the form of Brian Clough — 1981 was the year of the first million-pound footballer, and Clough wanted one. So he bought Fashanu for Nottingham Forest, for a round million. And promptly aban-

doned him, as Fashanu failed to reproduce his Norwich form. He was humiliatedly dropped from the first team and said pathetically of Clough: "He's the best manager in the game. He's never been a failure. Why should he start with me?"

Football has not even begun to come to terms with homosexuality. Fashanu came out in 1990 — the first professional footballer to do so — but his revelations did not set a trend. Fame evaded him, so he settled for notoriety.

He lacked the talent for possessing talent. The second disaster of his life, it seems, was a rejection too far. He fell from grace at Nottingham Forest and has been in freefall ever since. Perhaps he would have had a less troubled life had his talents been made for an arena more forgiving than sport.

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THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Toni Morrison

TONI MORRISON, the Nobel prize-winning author, will be reading from her long-awaited new novel, *Paradise* (Chatto & Windus £16.99), at a Times/Dillons Forum on Monday, May 18. This event, chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, offers readers the rare opportunity to ask Morrison questions about her life and work.

The forum, at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1E, marks the publication of *Paradise*, Morrison's first book for five years. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid ID) includes £2 off copies of *Paradise*.

TONI MORRISON FORUM

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Birthday drinker died after 27 whiskies

BY A CORRESPONDENT
A SHOPWORKER died from alcohol poisoning after drinking 27 Jack Daniels to celebrate his birthday. Mark Doggett, 24, downed the drinks in two hours after telling his friends that he wanted a whisky for every year of his life. After managing 24, he had a further triple. An inquest heard that Mr Doggett, of Fulbourn, Cambridge, went to a pub with two colleagues at 6pm. His usual drink was lager. He had never tried Jack Daniels before, but he began by drinking singles, then doubles, then triples and finally quadruples. There are 70 centilitres in a spirit bottle. Mr Doggett drank 63cl. By 8pm the group was asked to leave the Hogshead pub in Regent Street, Cambridge, because they were becoming too rowdy. Mr Doggett was carried outside by a colleague and a barman, but kept falling over. He was sick and then he stopped breathing. Paramedics managed to resuscitate him partially, but he never regained consciousness and died in Addenbrooke's Hospital six days later. Verdict: misadventure.

Sacked Bill actor dies after pub collapse

Star kept on drinking despite booking into clinic, Kathryn Knight reports

COLLEAGUES of the actor Kevin Lloyd, best known for his portrayal of the detective Tosh Lines in ITV's *The Bill*, yesterday spoke of their shock and sadness at his sudden death at the weekend. Mr Lloyd, 49, who had booked into an alcohol rehabilitation clinic in the village of Rolleston on Dove, Staffordshire, collapsed on Saturday afternoon after drinking in a nearby pub. Despite efforts to revive him he did not recover consciousness, and he was pronounced dead at Queen's Hospital, Burton on Trent. The father of seven, who was separated from his wife Lesley, had been sacked from his £130,000-a-year role by *The Bill's* producers last week after turning up drunk despite final warnings about his behaviour. He booked into the Dove clinic hours on Tuesday afternoon but was in the process of being discharged



Kevin Lloyd, left, who played Tosh Lines, with two fellow actors from *The Bill*. He died at the weekend after being sacked from the series

after failing to respond to treatment. Yesterday people in the Staffordshire village where Mr Lloyd had spent his last days said that he had been spotted buying alcohol in the local Co-op store and drinking in the pub opposite the clinic during the five days before his death. Members of *The Bill* cast were told the news of their colleague's death as they turned up for filming at their London studios. Billy Murray, who plays Detective Sergeant Don Beech, said: "Everybody loved Kevin. We were all sad when he was dismissed, but it was inevitable. It had been on the cards for over a year. His close friends had all tried to talk some sense into him," he said. "People are just shocked and sad. He was immensely proud of his family and his home. He will be greatly missed. Kevin was Tosh; his life mirrored his character's life." Earlier this year *The Bill's* producers had paid for a five-week stay by Mr Lloyd at the Woodbourne Priory clinic in Edgbaston, Birmingham, in an attempt to cure his drink problem. He had complained that his heavy work schedule, combined with a daily commute to

his family home in Derbyshire, had led to a descent into alcoholism. However, he was subsequently given an ultimatum to stop drinking or face the sack. He was fired last Monday after turning up late and drunk on set and reportedly

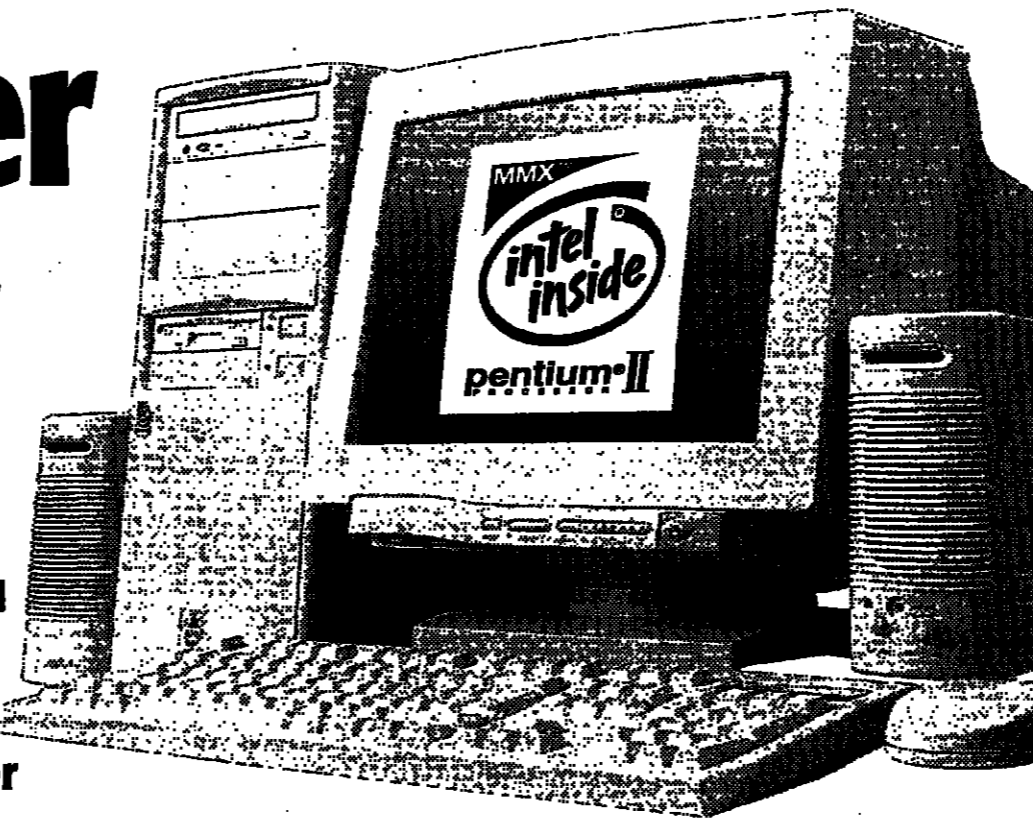
bungling his lines a number of times. Mr Lloyd's recent relationship with Rita Hudson also ended after she said she could no longer cope with his alcoholism. At Dove clinic, the nurse manager, Zoe Fowell, who was supervising Mr Lloyd's

care, admitted that they had had problems with the actor. "He was clearly not committed to the treatment programme. Despite all our efforts he continued to drink. He was distressed on arrival and continued to drink throughout the week. We do

not keep patients under lock and key, people come here out of choice and they have the choice to leave the building when they wish," she said. "Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family."

Obituary, page 23

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Midwives fear for light babies

Midwives want a government inquiry into the high number of low birthweight babies. Britain has one of the highest rates of low birthweight in Europe: 7 per cent of babies born in England and Wales weigh less than 5½lb, which increases the risk of stillbirth or death after birth. Midwives meeting in Bournemouth said that maternal and infant health should be a political priority.

Dead girl found

The body of a newborn girl has been found inside a holdall dumped in a playground in Lincoln. A towel and a blanket were also in the black bag, which bore the word "Sports" in green.

Officer arrested

A Scotland Yard detective has been arrested by anti-corruption investigators. The officer, who is alleged to have been involved in smuggling drugs, works in the Criminal Intelligence Branch.

Crash kills three

A husband and wife and their ten-year-old son were killed when their Mini collided with a van on the A20 at Smeeth, near Ashford, Kent. Their daughter, eight, was in a critical condition last night.

Scots earthquake

A large area of Argyll was shaken by an earthquake measuring 3.4 on the Richter scale. The epicentre was nearly nine miles under the seabed off Jura and shocks were felt 40 miles away in Oban.

Dounreay notice

A statutory enforcement notice from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency is likely to be served on Dounreay, requiring the nuclear plant to clean up its emissions.

House fire kills father of evicted family

BY GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE father of Scotland's most notorious family died in a house fire yesterday.

The body of Gordon Graham, 42, was discovered by firemen in the bedroom of his top-floor flat in Fraserburgh, near Aberdeen. He and his family waged a campaign of terror against their neighbours, which culminated in the Grahams being evicted from their home for antisocial behaviour.

Mr Graham, who had a string of convictions stretching back 15 years, moved to Aberdeenshire three years ago with his wife, Anne, 38, a convicted drug dealer, and their five children, after a sheriff forced them to leave their council house in Glenrothes, Fife.

Their former neighbours nicknamed the Grahams the "family from hell" and dubbed the area in which they lived Little Bosnia. They claimed that refuse collectors were afraid to approach the Grahams' house, postmen were regularly bitten by their dog and the bus company had to reroute one of its services away from the area after the Graham children repeatedly pelted vehicles with stones.

On one occasion, when sheriff officers called about rent arrears, they found the door barricaded by an upturned car while the family bombarded them with missiles and verbal abuse.

Throughout their time in Glenrothes, the family remained defiant despite their unpopularity, accusing their neighbours of picking on them. Even when the eviction notice was served, the Grahams chose to appeal and spent a further eight months in their home.

Yesterday, a spokesman for Grampian Police said there would be an investigation into the cause of the fire.

Minister accused of affair resigns

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A CHURCH of Scotland minister has resigned after admitting serious professional misconduct. But a church official would not confirm that the resignation was linked to newspaper reports that he had had an affair with a schoolgirl.

The Rev Terence Moran, 37, is alleged to have become involved with the 17-year-old when she sought his help after she discovered that her mother was terminally ill. She was also believed to have been trying to cope with the recent death of her father.

The alleged affair was said to have come to light after the sixth-former told a teacher, who then informed education authorities. Mr Moran was

minister of Arthurlie Parish Church in Barrhead, near Glasgow. A presbytery statement confirmed that Mr Moran's offer of resignation had been accepted at a meeting on April 14 but that he had ceased to be a minister from April 3, the day of his letter of resignation.

A statement issued on behalf of the local presbytery said: "Terence Moran has denied his charge and his status as a minister of the Church of Scotland. He did this after admitting allegations of serious professional misconduct."

Calls to the manse at Arthurlie Parish Church went unanswered yesterday.

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NDAY MAY 4 1998



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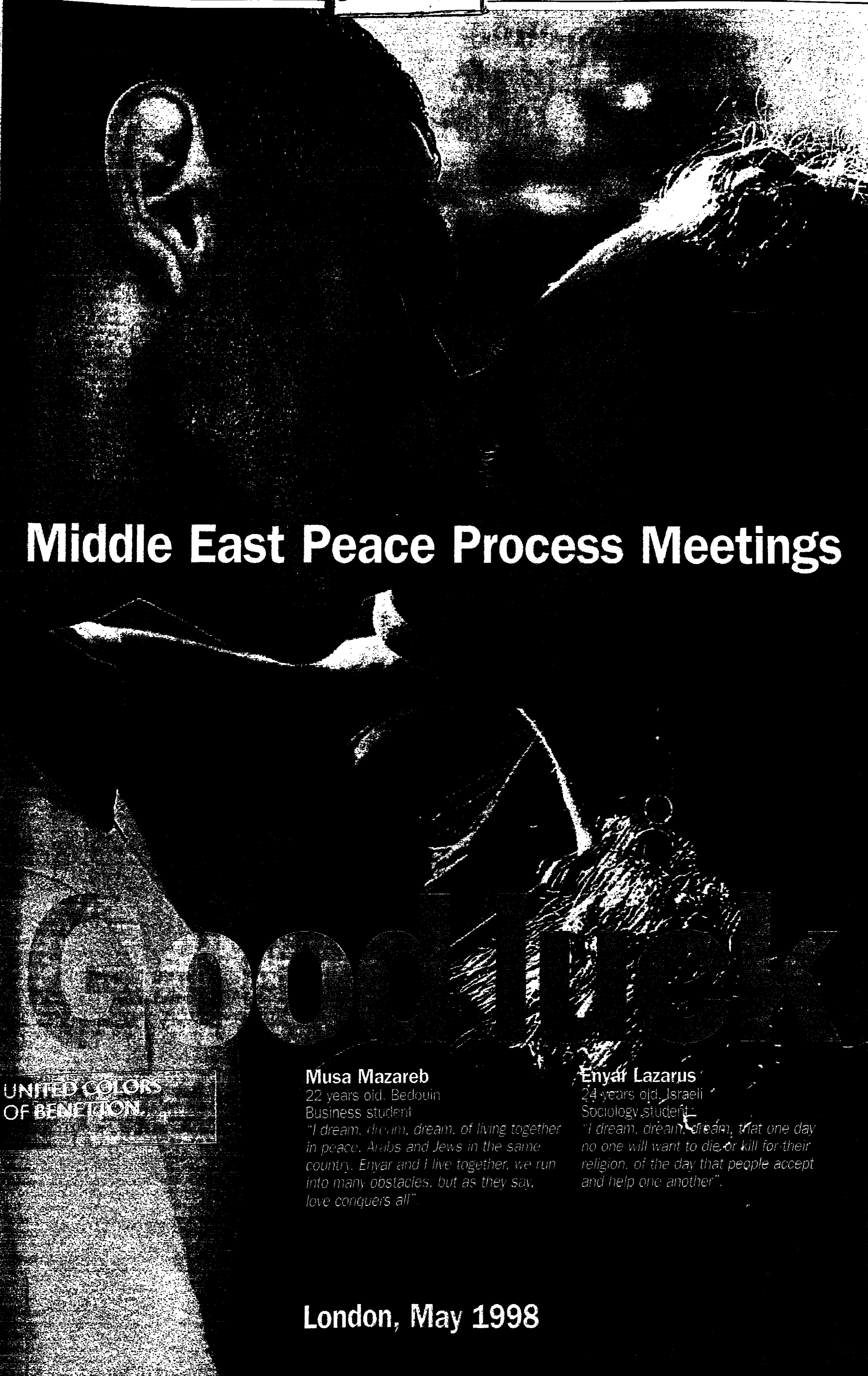
House firm kills father of evicted family

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accused resigns



Middle East Peace Process Meetings

UNITED COLORS OF BENEFITON.

Musa Mazareb

22 years old, Bedouin Business student

"I dream, dream, dream, of living together in peace. Arabs and Jews in the same country. Enyar and I live together, we run into many obstacles, but as they say, love conquers all"

Enyar Lazarus

24 years old, Israeli Sociology student

"I dream, dream, dream, that one day no one will want to die, or kill for their religion, of the day that people accept and help one another"

London, May 1998

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Passengers kept waiting for rail sell-off dividend

TWO train firms whose directors made millions from selling their stakes will be named this month as showing the biggest deterioration in service. Official figures will highlight dramatic falls in punctuality during the first full year of privatisation.

The biggest slump will be shown on services run by Thames Trains, the subject of a £6 million takeover, and Great Western, bought for £140 million. The two firms' directors earned a total of more than £27 million when the takeovers were announced earlier this year.

Figures obtained by *The Times* indicate that the overall proportion of late trains has increased by some 16 per cent in the year to April.

Other weak performers, compared year-on-year, include Chiltern, running from London to Birmingham, Cardiff Railways and Great Eastern, run in Essex and Suffolk by FirstGroup, which took over Great Western.

John O'Brien, the Franchising Director, is expected to say that 20 of the 25 franchises have worsened compared with the previous year.

Merseyrail has the most improved service. However, National Express, which runs more franchises than any other operator, will be revealed as the best overall achiever, with three of its operations among the five improved services.

Thames Trains, whose five managers sold out for £878,000 each, will be named the most rapidly deteriorating service in the country, with the percentage of late trains almost doubling over the year. The directors, who each invested £10,000 in the privatisation of the Oxford-to-London railway, shared gains of £4.3 million from selling their stakes to the bus operator Go-Ahead Group.

Great Western, which caused a political storm earlier this year by selling out for £140 million, is the second-worst service, having increased the proportion of late trains by 59 per cent during the year. Their 11 directors shared £23 million, led by Brian Scott, the chief executive, who earned £3.7 million.

Figures reveal a dramatic fall in punctuality after privatisation, say Fraser Nelson and Arthur Leattley

Ministers have already voiced anger at the payments made to directors and have taken action to force the two firms to improve services, by introducing penalties and passenger benefits.

However, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is certain to use the next set of figures as evidence that further action is needed to ensure that future takeovers benefit passengers. Mr Prescott will give details next month of tougher regulation of the industry and has told operators that he will take action unless they improve punctuality.

The Association of Train Operating Companies acknowledged that the punctuality "showed a disappointing slippage" over the whole year, but said that performance was improving in recent months.

ScottRail, run by National Express, emerges as the best-run intensive service in Britain, with 96.4 per cent of its Inverness to Aberdeen service arriving on time. Silverlink, which runs trains in North London, and Central Trains, based mainly in the Midlands, were the other National Express services showing im-

provements over the year. Phil White, National Express chief executive, said: "We have not made a big song and dance. We've just got on with the job and the results are beginning to show through thanks to the efforts of our staff." Thameslink, running from Bedford to Brighton, had also improved. The figures — the first definitive measurement of railway services since British Rail was entirely sold off — will be officially announced just weeks before Mr Prescott announces his White Paper on transport next month.

Great Western blamed its poor performance on congestion at London's Paddington station, which it shares with two other rail operators. A spokeswoman said: "There are now a third more trains arriving at Paddington than there were two years ago, and this makes things a lot more difficult."

Virgin Rail, which took on the worst-performing British Rail franchises, is once again among the least punctual networks, although the services have improved in the first months of 1998. Its Scottish services, which recorded appalling figures under British Rail, will return the worst yearly figure of any British franchise, keeping passengers waiting for an average 30.5 per cent of its trains over the period.

Brian Barrett, chief executive of Virgin Rail, played down its punctuality record and said the company had been investing £190 million on improving its existing stock.

Leading article, page 21

GOOD TIMES, BAD TIMES				
	% late 1997-98	% late 1996-97	subsidy 1997-98	current owner of franchise
BEST				
1 Silverlink	7	9.2	£69m	National Express
2 Merseyrail	6.5	7.2	£81m	MTL Trust
3 Thameslink	9.4	11.9	£2.5m	Go-Ahead/Me-GTI
4 ScotRail	4.8	5.4	£280m	National Express
5 Central Trains	6.4	6.9	£197m	National Express
WORST				
1 Thames Trains	12.1	6.3	£39m	Go-Ahead Group
2 Great Western	15.9	5.6	£25m	FirstGroup
3 Chiltern Railways	8.5	5.8	£14m	Managers' buyout
4 Cardiff	8.9	5.6	£28m	Prism Rail
5 Great Eastern	10.2	7.8	£23m	FirstGroup

Source: *Individual companies' Operational Performance Reports*
Average percentage of trains late from April 1 1997 to March 30 1998



Wildlife on one: Lucy Lintott, 7, keeping a wary eye on a red-kneed Mexican tarantula at Drusillas Park in Alfriston, East Sussex, yesterday

Classics make a comeback in opt-out schools

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CLASSICS scholars have identified a revival of Latin and Greek in the classroom, led by grant-maintained comprehensive schools. The encouraging signs of renewed interest in classics, after a 30-year decline, are disclosed in the first national database of the subject compiled by the Joint Association of Classical Teachers.

One in four of the state secondary schools where pupils can study the ancient languages or classical civilisation are grant-maintained. Nationally, one in six schools is grant-maintained.

Marion Gibbs, headmistress of the independent James Allen's Girls' School in South London, who is compiling the database, said the high proportion of grant-maintained schools reflected their flexibility to respond to parental demand for classics.

"There are many more grant-maintained schools doing classics because they have got more control over their budgets," she said. "Grant-maintained status has either protected classics or enabled it to be introduced."

The battle to preserve classics has faced a series of reverses since Oxford and Cambridge scrapped Latin and Greek as formal entrance requirements in 1960. The introduction two years ago of compulsory design technology for 14- to 16-year-olds squeezed the classics off some school timetables.

The database, which is still being compiled, has identified 1,101 schools and sixth-form colleges which offer classics. Of these, 434 are state secondary schools, including 109 which are grant-maintained.

In all, 164 state secondary schools teach Latin to GCSE. The discovery brought a warning that Latin and Greek could be the first subjects lost under government plans to return grant-maintained schools to local authority funding.

Sir Robert Balchin, former

chairman of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation, said the average grant-maintained secondary would lose £250,000 when it switched to foundation or aided status.

He said: "When that flexibility of funding comes to an end next April, there is the sad chance that much of that classics teaching will come to an end."

However, one grant-maintained comprehensive that re-introduced Latin three years ago said it was determined to preserve the subject. Maureen Howie, head of La Replatte Roman Catholic Girls' School in South London, said: "Latin is one of the enhancements we will be seeking to protect."



Balchin: feared impact of change in schools' status

The school runs one Latin lesson a week for all 135 12-year-olds, and for the top two groups of 13 and 14-year-olds. About ten pupils choose to continue to GCSE and the school is planning to introduce A-level Latin.

Mrs Howie added: "First and foremost we reintroduced Latin because there is a strong feeling in our language department that it forms the basis of many European languages, so we are underpinning and enhancing all their language studies. We are all committed to the idea of educating the rounded, cultured person, and having a sense of the classics helps to achieve that."

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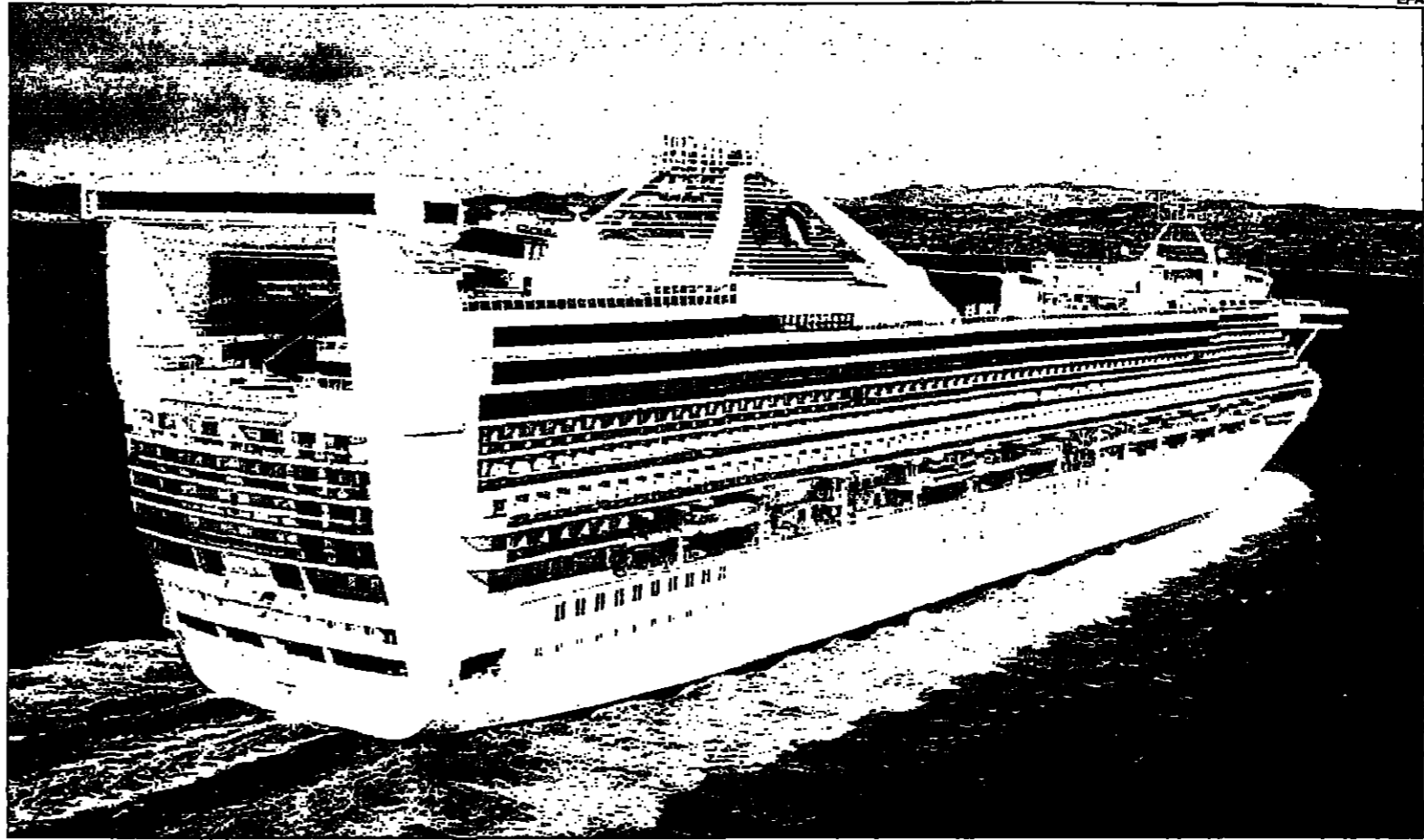
Clinton 'consumed by self-pity' as inquiries take toll

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE pressure of Washington's sex scandal and other investigations is beginning to get to President Clinton, friends and aides say. They describe him as consumed with anger and self-pity in his darkest moments. They also express amazement at his capacity to brush off his legal problems and to portray himself in public as untroubled, even as the inquiries gain momentum and speculation grows that Hillary Clinton might be indicted. Privately, Mr Clinton fumes about Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor who is investigating a string of accusations stemming from White-water, plus allegations of a sexual relationship between the President and Monica Lewinsky and that Mr Clinton told her to lie about it. Mr Clinton reportedly vented his anger recently in a telephone call to a friend. "Can you believe this [expletive]?"

he asked, referring to Mr Starr. "He's crazy. He's a zealot. He'll do anything to hang me." Americans still overwhelmingly approve of the job Mr Clinton is doing, but a majority tell pollsters they do not like or trust him. He complains that the media has been unfair and has expressed frustration that the Starr inquiries could last "forever". News that the inquiries are eating at Mr Clinton comes as the atmosphere in Washington has turned more hostile. In recent days, Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker, has accused the President of lacking moral authority and has vowed to mention this topic in every speech he makes. In another setback for the President, Webster Hubbell, formerly a close Arkansas friend of the Clintons, has again been indicted for fraud, this time over alleged tax evasion. Mr Starr has also

indicted his wife, Suzanna Hubbell, in what is seen as an attempt to force Mr Hubbell to say what he knows about Mrs Clinton's alleged involvement in a scheme to mislead federal financial regulators when she and Mr Hubbell worked for a Little Rock law firm. On Mr Hubbell's taped conversations from prison, leaked by congressional Republicans, he is heard discussing inquiries that could lead to Mrs Clinton and remarks: "So, I need to roll over one more time." The Little Rock grand jury looking into this phase of Mr Starr's investigation is due to complete its work this week after listening to Mrs Clinton's five-hour taped deposition taken ten days ago at the White House. Robert Novak, a leading Republican columnist, said yesterday that informed insiders put the chances of her being indicted at about 40 per cent.



The world's largest passenger liner sails from the Gulf of Trieste on its way to Southampton yesterday after being launched at the Fincantieri shipyard at Monfalcone (Richard Owen writes). P&O's *Grand Princess*, which weighs 109,000 tonnes,

P&O's giant liner sets sail for the golf

carries 3,300 passengers and a crew of 1,100. Described by *Corriere della Sera* as "one of the wonders of modern shipping", the Italian-built

vessel is almost 950ft long, 125ft wide and 197ft high. All 1,500 cabins have been booked for the ship's inaugural journey from Southampton to New

York. The £250 million liner boasts five swimming pools — including one with a coral reef — and a nine-hole golf course, as well as covered tennis courts and two theatres. There is a Hearts and Minds chapel to seal shipboard romances in marriage.

Magicians lament vanishing tricks as TV reveals all

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

FEARING for their livelihoods, more than 1,000 magicians are planning a protest tomorrow at the prospect of having their secrets exposed on a popular television programme. The veil of mystery that keeps hundreds of small-time performers in business is being yanked away, they claim, by *Breaking the Magician's Code*, a series that has won higher ratings than World Series baseball games. They are fighting back by offering free shows to lure viewers out of their homes while the show is broadcast. There will be few disappearing elephants in the performances being put on at 8pm tomorrow in public venues across the country; that trick — involving sliding bamboo screens — was "outed" in the first instalment last year, forcing practitioners to drop it and others from their routines and often rendering expensive props useless. "In a perfect world Fox would reimburse me \$3,000 (£1,800) for the illusions they exposed because I can't use them now," Mark Farris —

also known as Almodarr — told *US News and World Report*. Another magician, who performs at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, complained: "It's like destroying Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny. I find these [programmes] pathetic." Far from offering compensation, the network has said it hopes the series encourages magicians to dream up new tricks. Faced with such defiance, Andre Cole, who fears his Table of Death routine is about to be exposed, went to court in Los Angeles last week seeking an injunction banning tomorrow's broadcast. The injunction was denied, but Mr Cole is appealing. The biggest names in magic have been quick to emphasise that they fear nothing from the programmes. David Copperfield, whose highly evolved version of smoke and mirrors earns him some \$74 million a year, boasts that if a trick is rumbled he can "just change the method". Those who work with him also sign strict confidentiality agreements and face bruising lawsuits if they break them.



Magicians plan a protest to protect tricks of the trade

Bank to write off theft of \$66m

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

BANKBOSTON, one of America's leading banks, has written off \$66 million siphoned away by an Uruguayan executive. Ricardo Carrasco, 42, head of the New York international private client section, made the loans — most for less than £1 million (£600,000) and so not needing clearance — to an Argentine businessman, Oldemar Carlos Barreiro. Mr Barreiro agrees some of the money came back to him, but says he cannot repay it. BankBoston accepts that and, having admitted its controls were lax, is unlikely to get a substantial insurance payout. It is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the capture of Mr Carrasco.

Harare tycoon's assets frozen

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE gold, tobacco and financial empire of a tycoon whose bank collapsed last week has been frozen by the Zimbabwean judicial authorities on suspicion of fraud. Emmerson Mnangagwa, the Justice Minister, said Roger Boka, the militant champion of black empowerment, and nine of his companies were barred under anti-corruption laws from carrying out any business. Authorities have to carry out an investigation immediately. The Government closed Mr Boka's United Merchant bank after an investigation showed that it was broke. The frail diabetic businessman's vision of black economic empowerment, launched two years ago to destroy what he said was a racist white business cartel, has turned into the biggest financial scandal in the country's history.

Birmingham welcomes the G8 delegates for world talks.

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Life goes on and on for the people who time forgot

IT COULD be the pure mountain water. It could be a life of back-breaking labour. It may even be an unexplained freak of genetics. But something extraordinary is enabling the inhabitants of this remote region to live longer than any other people on Earth. They are the mountain Azeris of southern Azerbaijan. Some 65,000 of them are dotted over the fertile ridges between the Iranian border and the Caspian Sea. According to records kept by the remnants of the Soviet bureaucracy here, more than 10 per cent are aged over 90. They have the highest number of centenarians on the planet. But some, like Mirzahan Movlamov, live to be much older.

Mr Movlamov told *The Times* he was 130. He says he remembers the childhood of Tsar Nicholas II, served in his Imperial cavalry, and had reached the tender age of 50 in



1917 when he fought with the White Russians against the Bolsheviks. It is a claim that would stretch credulity were it not that this longevity has been a phenomenon of these parts for generations. Shirali Muslimov, an Azeri from the Lerik district, was proclaimed "The Oldest Inhabitant of the Planet" by local authorities, and was listed by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the oldest man alive. Muslimov's faded papers said he was born in 1805, the year

Michael Dynes meets inhabitants of a remote region in Azerbaijan famed for their longevity

Nelson defeated the French at the Battle of Trafalgar. He died in 1793, aged 168. What is even more astonishing is that he remained lucid to the end, although is said to have had difficulty remembering the name of his 200th descendant. His obituary credited him with "tending the sheep of rich people for the first hundred years of his life". Soviet scientists flocked to Lerik to try to discover the secret. They examined the old folk, conducted water tests



Mirzahan Movlamov, 130, with some of the younger members of his extensive family at his home in Lerik, part of Azerbaijan's Shangri-La

and blood tests, and every other conceivable sort of test, but never uncovered the secret. Their conclusion was that the phenomenon could be explained only by the "inherent superiority of the Communist way of life". Almost a decade after the collapse of Communism, Mr

Movlamov offered a more prosaic explanation. "Here we didn't lack for anything," he said. "The mountain air is clean, we prepared our own food, and we ate only what we produced." Pressed for something more specific, Mr Movlamov counselled: "Everything the cow gives you is

good." That as a devout Muslim he never smoked or drank (even though the vodka in these parts is reputed to have medicinal — even mystical — qualities, probably has more to do with it. Sitting on the mud floor of his mountain hut, only a solitary light bulb by way of

modern conveniences, Mr Movlamov reminisced about his long life. His third wife, 85, lies on tiny bed in the corner of the room. He remembered fondly his first and second wives, both of whom died. "All my wives have been good to me," he said.

His children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren number about 60, he thought. His first son from his first marriage is now 80. It is still common for people in Lerik to have 15 children and, as everyone lives so long,

family trees soon become family forests. Despite an ambition to live another 20 years, Mr Movlamov is approaching the end of his long life; he has lost the use of his arms and legs, and is suffering from an acute eye infection. He said he cannot make ends meet on his 56-month pension. He does not regret the collapse of the Soviet Union, even though life was easier then, but wished the newly independent Government was as generous as the Communists had been.



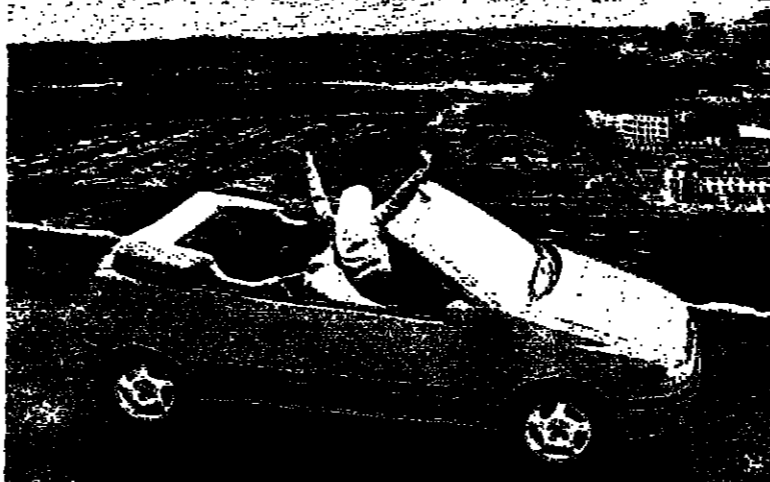
Yes Audrey, my sweet?
Cary, my darling?



But of course my angel.



Do you mind if we stop a moment? The view looks so enchanting.



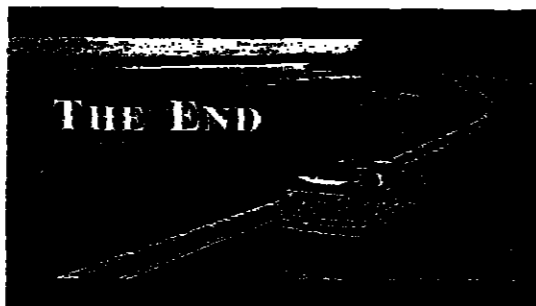
I do so love Monaco at this time of year.



Actually, my sweet, that's Torquay.



Oh don't spoil it, just kiss me you fool!



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Desperate Nepalis turn to the monarchy

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KATHMANDU



Birendra: struggling to remain neutral

THE Nepali Royal Family, stripped of its powers eight years ago, is struggling to remain politically neutral amid a tide of popular disgust with democracy. An escalating Maoist insurgency in the west of the country threatens further disintegration of the democratic experiment.

The latest Government, the fifth since the last election in 1994, is doing little to ease near-famine conditions in remote mountain regions after the destruction of winter crops by hail and rain. This is further confirmation of political paralysis, adding to despair with corrupt and squabbling politicians.

The Maoist rebellion, in which 146 police and suspected rebels have died in two years, has stunned the authorities in Kathmandu. Fewer than that number died in the pro-democracy rebellion in 1989-90, which threatened

to topple the Royal Family unless it accepted a British-style constitutional role.

Small groups armed with locally made weapons have attacked banks, government offices and feudal landlords with increasing effectiveness, possibly aided by the expertise of a few retired Gurkhas.

King Birendra has privately made it known that he opposes using the army to quell the uprising. People are turning again to him in a wave of nostalgia for the old days but the King has adhered to his new constitutional role, and politicians jealous of his popularity have no intention of allowing him to assume a higher profile.

"The art of erotica"

The Times, 2nd March 1998



Recently in *The Times*, Damian Whitworth examined a rather different kind of journal, which has recently gone on sale in certain selected newsagents and bookshops: *The Erotic Review*. It has proved so popular that, within a few days, Waterstone's had reordered and the Society had to reprint.

The *Times* correspondent speaks about the spicy writing — by contributors such as Auberon Waugh, Josceline Dimbleby and Barry Humphries — and explicit illustrations, some of which are 'scarily erotic'.

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THE *Erotic REVIEW*

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Leaders blame Blair for bank wrangle

Philip Webster and Charles Bremner look back on a bitter euro summit

IN THE aftermath of the bitter Euro-summit, Tony Blair emerged as something of a scapegoat yesterday for frustrated leaders of the smaller states who complained of a lack of preparation and failure to include them in negotiations.

At one stage on Saturday, Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, was so annoyed by Mr Blair's private chats with the key players in the Franco-German dispute over the European Central Bank that he threatened to take ten fellow leaders off to a Brussels restaurant for a separate lunch, diplomats said.

Romano Prodi and Jean-Claude Juncker, the Italian and Luxembourg Prime Ministers, criticised what they called the British presidency's poor preparation. Mr Juncker regretted Britain's failure to keep him informed of the deal that was taking shape. Viktor Klima, the Austrian Chancellor, said: "We have now learned for our presidency how not to organise a summit."

Austria takes over the EU chair in July. Mr Klima said he was already taking over for matters involving the euro because Britain was not in the currency.

British officials strongly defended Mr Blair after his debut as chairman at a classic EU horse-trading session, saying his strategy had been to secure an arrangement which would ensure that Wim Duisenberg, the Dutchman, could be formally appointed to the full eight-year term as president of the bank, while crafting a gentleman's agreement to have him succeeded after four by Jean-Claude Trichet of France.

Mr Blair began by summoning Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, Wim Kok of The Netherlands, Signor Prodi, President Chirac and Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, to a private session. Mr Blair wanted to avoid the risk of two vetoes. Failure to appoint Mr Duisenberg to the full term



Tony Blair, flanked by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, points at a journalist while answering questions at a news conference in Brussels after Saturday's summit agreement

would have brought a Dutch veto, while M Chirac would have blocked the Dutchman if his candidate was not given a clear promise of succession.

As the "lunch" dragged on for hours, M Chirac maintained his insistence on a firm date for a hand-over. At 5pm, Mr Duisenberg said he could promise a July 2002 departure. The French accepted, but insisted that M Trichet be appointed successor.

At 6pm there was a crisis when an angry Herr Kohl dug

in his heels. As the stand-off continued, José-Maria Gil-Robles, president of the European Parliament, stormed out of the council building in protest over the emerging compromise.

He returned to denounce it as a breach of the Maastricht treaty. In an attempt to force the pace, the Prime Minister's spokesman was sent to warn 2,000 waiting reporters that the talks might end in failure.

The breakthrough came at midnight after Mr Blair had Mr Duisenberg brought in to tell the leaders directly that he would step down.

This left the council to carry out their historic decision to launch the euro, an act that took 12 minutes, compared with 11 hours for the bank squabble.

William Rees-Mogg, Page 20
Leading article, Page 21
Bundesbank threat, Page 46



Chirac insisted on date for hand-over

Vatican signs up for new currency

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AS ITALY yesterday celebrated joining the euro, the Vatican ended uncertainty over its own currency plans by indicating that it would follow suit and adopt the euro rather than the US dollar.

The Vatican City, which has fewer than a thousand residents and covers 0.44 square kilometres (0.16 square miles) of sovereign territory in the heart of Rome, at present uses the lira. The Vatican Mint and the Vatican Bank — properly called the Istituto di Opere di Religione, or IOR — are linked to the Bank of Italy. But the Vatican carries out transactions in a variety of international currencies, above all the US dollar. In the

past it has become enmeshed in financial scandals as a result of ill-judged investments and business partners, some linked to the Mafia.

There had been reports that the Vatican might opt to join the dollar zone. But yesterday, L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, hailed Italy's adherence to the euro as historic and said the decision by 11 countries to adopt the currency was "a very positive step". Bishop Francesco Salerno, secretary of the Vatican Prefecture for Economic Affairs, said the Holy See would now "begin to pave the way for the euro as well". He did not say whether the Vatican euro would have the Pope's image

on it, as Vatican lira coins do.

Professor Romano Prodi, Italy's centre-left Prime Minister, thanked Italians for helping the country to qualify for the euro by making sacrifices — a reference to spending cuts and the imposition of a euro tax. "I am happy, and I think you are all happy, too," Signor Prodi said. He noted that the European Union had been born as a "fusion of German and Latin cultures" in the 1957 Treaty of Rome, and said that Italy stood at the delicate junction between Europe and North Africa, or between Christianity and Islam. "Italy's duty to Europe is to make the Mediterranean a sea of peace," he said.

Signor Prodi, who came to power two years ago and staked his future on Italy

joining the euro, said the single currency would guarantee the country's future. "Italy is stronger," he said. "You have passed the test, and I thank you from my heart." But Il Messaggero gave a warning that the advent of the single currency would bring the "winds of competition" to Italy's economy, and would shake up the over-protected retail and banking sectors.

Striking a Eurosceptic note Antonio Martino, former Foreign Minister in the 1994 centre-right Government of Silvio Berlusconi, said the euro would hasten the "Germanisation of Europe". It was irresponsible of the Prodi Government to disguise from Italians "the very real possibility that the single currency will end in disaster".

The buck stops with inscrutable Mr Euro

BY CHARLES BREMNER

PROFILE

Few Europeans may have heard of Wim Duisenberg, appointed yesterday to run the euro, but within months the tall, craggy-featured Dutch banker will become a household name — and an obvious target for popular ire if the single currency runs into trouble.

Named after a bruising wrangle in Brussels, Mr Duisenberg, 62, a golf lover with a trademark mane of silver hair, becomes "Mr Euro" when he takes the helm at the Frankfurt-based European Central Bank (ECB) at its launch in July. Heading a five-strong directorate with 500 staff, he will hold one of the world's most powerful unelected jobs. Conceived at Maastricht, the bank must set interest rates and administer in complete independence from politicians the money of 11 states with the paramount goal of fighting inflation.

For the Germans and supporters of

a hard euro, Mr Duisenberg, a former Finance Minister in a Labour Government and governor of the Dutch Central Bank, offers the safest pair of hands outside the Bundesbank. As the man who, in effect, married the guilder to the mark in the 1980s and boosted the Dutch "economic miracle" — The Netherlands is the Continent's economic showcase, having high growth, extensive social protection and low unemployment — his devotion to independent hard-money orthodoxy is above suspicion. Since taking over the European Monetary Institute (EMI), a year ago, he has often quoted Hans Tietmeyer, chief of the Bundesbank, that he has earned the French nickname *Hans m'a dit* (Hans told me).

The same could not quite be said for Jean-Claude Trichet, the French central bank governor whom President

Chirac forced EU leaders to anoint in succession to Mr Duisenberg after a curtailed four-year term. M Trichet, 55, the very model of the erudite Paris technocrat, has earned his own name for orthodoxy and relishes his nickname, *L'ayatollah du franc fort*. His support for a Bundesbank-style devotion to price stability has even caused critics to dub him "Hans-Claude Trichemeyer" — another reference to the mark's steward. Recent strictures from the one-time student radical attracted the wrath of M Chirac.

However, that was not enough to allay suspicions in Germany and The Netherlands that M Trichet would inevitably be France's man at the ECB, with the risk that he would bow to his Government's desire for a more flexibly managed currency. M Trichet's November appearance as M Chirac's candidate took him by surprise; he had backed the private deal in which

Mr Duisenberg had been prevailed to take the EMI job in 1996 on the understanding of fellow central bankers that he would succeed to the ECB seat. This quiet arrangement was seen by the French Government as a coup d'état among central bankers at the expense of political control.

The French spanner in the ECB works has angered and embarrassed the Dutchman, who had been reluctant to accept the Dutch-German offer to become the euro's custodian and had refused to consider splitting the eight-year term with M Trichet. Saturday's near-farceful events forced him to spend the day waiting while the leaders wrangled over his fate, and ended with being persuaded to make a bizarre statement, declaring he would stand down in 2002 for personal reasons. Such political play-acting is anathema to a man who embodies the stubborn traits of natives of Friesland and adopts the public persona of the inscrutable, discreet central banker.



Wim Duisenberg, left, and his successor at the central bank, Jean-Claude Trichet

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REVIEW

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Kitting out cool kids

Choosing styles to suit children can be made easy by mail-order says Style Editor Grace Bradberry

If you have spent half an hour wondering whether red really does suit your child, whether combat trousers are an unacceptably militaristic look, or whether the Blairs' daughter should wear smocked dresses, then you probably kept quiet about it. There are supposed to be more important things to think about.

Yet how you dress your children is important, indeed. Important enough to engage the philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who advised in his *Emile* that "the limbs of a growing child should be free to move easily in his clothing... The best plan is to keep children in frocks as long as possible and provide them with loose clothing, without trying to define the shape

which is only another way of deforming it." He was not talking about this year's "lost waist" dresses, nor about the excesses of deconstructionist designers, but of freeing children from hoops, stays, tight waistcoats and knee breeches. His views influenced the Victorians, who introduced sailor suits and muslin dresses and more or less created our concept of childhood.

Throughout this century the attitude has persisted that it is naïf to dress children in adult-style clothing. But in the past few years, a shift has taken place. Twenty and thirty-somethings continue to wear "street" fashion beyond the age when it is strictly decent. And they have begun dressing their children in miniature versions of their own

favourites — you can buy scaled-down Nike trainers, children's Dr Martens and even baby Patagonia fleeces. There is, however, what you might call the Kensington look — traditional dresses in Liberty prints with plenty of smocking and puffed sleeves.

So at last, eclecticism has come to children's fashion. The big drawback, however, is that it involves going into lots of shops with a recalcitrant four-year-old in tow.

If you are to enjoy the diversity to children's style, you will need a stack of mail-order catalogues. That way not only will your little ones come to regard a morning at the shops as a treat, but you can also style your children with the kind of flair that emerges only two hours after they are in bed. It will then be possible to supplement this look with a few "pieces" from Mothercare or Baby Gap.

Each year, more and more catalogues come on the market. Besides major names such as Next, Freemans and La Redoute, there are now specialist companies offering a particular style. Boden, known for its sportswear classics, now does Mini Boden, with lots of miniature polo shirts and sweat tops. Trotters, the chichi children's boutique, has produced a catalogue full of beautifully made "classics with a twist" from its own Chelsea Clothing Company. It also includes DKNY, Elle and Timberland. At the other end of the spectrum Tirke Dungha specialises in urban sportswear for boys aged eight and upwards.

The market is now so developed, that there are designers with conflicting philosophies. Launched this year, Zed aims to produce "a collection of stylish daywear influenced by adult catwalk trends" for the two to 12 age range.

Meanwhile, Katie Mawson, 34, designs bold, simple knitwear with strong graphic designs. "I like the clothes to be simple and fun," says Mawson, whose first child is on the way. "I don't want children to become fashion victims. I don't like the image of Zed." Such judgments can prove academic. For the big occasions, a friend's daughter will wear only her fairy dress. Trips to the supermarket, visits to friends, all are conducted in a pink tutu with silver wings. Not very Prada. But there are fairy looks in next season's Chloé...



Oranges dress, £16.99, ages 2-8 by Zed catalogue. Shoes by Benetton, £10, sizes 4-8 from Freemans catalogue. Sunflower hair accessories, £2.99, from Trotters.



Union Jack sweater, £44.50, and combat trousers, £28.50, both ages 2-8 from Roobarb & Custard. Trainers, £55, by Tirke Dungha



Pink pique Sport sundress, £8 and green clogs £11, both from Freemans catalogue. Lime green cardigan £15.99, Next Directory

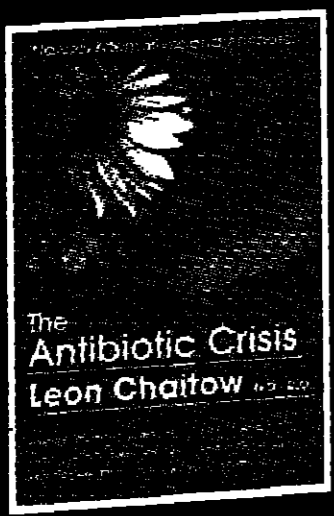


Red star jumper, £37, and Lapland hat, £16.50, by Katie Mawson. Denim skirt, £16.99, Trotters Direct. Dr Martens shoes £27.99

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Pharaoh with a secret

A rare genetic disorder may link present day sufferers with an Egyptian pharaoh. Anjana Ahuja reports

Doctor Bob Brier rarely found the time to peruse the more obscure journals in his field. A respected Egyptologist at Long Island University, New York, his spare moments last year were taken up by his efforts to research a television documentary and write a book.

But in a snatched break he came across a paper tucked away in a publication from the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities. It concerned Akhenaten, regarded as the most radical and enigmatic of the pharaohs who once ruled Ancient Egypt. Shortly after ascending to the throne somewhere around 1375 BC, Akhenaten swept away all existing religions and instigated a new one dedicated to the Sun.

Experts have long sought to explain his strange behaviour. And here, in this paper, a young Canadian student had put together the perfect theory. Akhenaten, she suggested, could have been a sufferer of Marfan's syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that leads to a slight oddness in physical appearance and feelings of alienation.

Dr Brier recalls: "It was complete chance — she had seen a magazine which had an article on Marfan's syndrome and featured a photograph of a sufferer. She was struck by how much the sufferer resembled Akhenaten."

Her intriguing suggestion may have lain unnoticed in the literature, but Dr Brier was so impressed that he sought out sufferers and medical experts. He was sufficiently convinced to include an entire chapter on it in his new book, *The Murder of Tutankhamen* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20), about Akhenaten's more famous son. He does not know how the idea will be regarded by his colleagues. "It has only just been aired, so people haven't had a chance to respond to it yet," Dr Brier says.

"But as theories go, it's a good one." Marfan's syndrome, which affects only two people in 100,000 and claims Abraham Lincoln as a famous sufferer, begins to show itself after the age of ten. Affected individuals grow very tall; their fingers become long and spidery; and the chest and spine develop deformities. The condition arises because of a problem in the connective tissue that surrounds body structures and fixes them in place. Heart failure is the most common cause of death. If the condition is diagnosed, heart surgery is an option, but those afflicted are thought lucky if they live beyond 50.

Circumstantial evidence also pointed to Marfan's. The disorder is a dominant genetic defect — sufferers have a 50 per cent chance of passing it on to their children. Statues of Akhenaten's offspring show similar deformities.

Unlike Marfan's, Froliech's syndrome is not inherited, and it would be highly unlikely, given its rarity, to strike many times within one family. The low life expectancy for Marfan's sufferers may also explain why the royal house of the late 18th Dynasty, with which Akhenaten was associated, was cursed with so many early deaths.

Could the same disorder explain Akhenaten's outlandish behaviour? Dr Brier sought out Dr Jessica Davis, a geneticist at New York Hospital. "Jessica said she thought it was a viable suggestion," he says. "That's when I decided I had to meet some Marfan's sufferers."

His first encounter was one of the most memorable moments in his professional career: "I turned up at this meeting, and here were these people. They didn't seem freakish, just a little thinner and a little taller than normal. But they looked so much like Akhenaten. One of the women could have passed for his sister. I showed them slides, and I could hear them talking about his fingers and toes. It was incredible. They thought that he was definitely one of them."



Secret of the pharaoh's gloom: Akhenaten has the typical look of a sufferer of Marfan's syndrome

from the reign of his father. He faced public life when his elder brother died, leaving him next in line to become King of Egypt. His accession as a teenager was one of the most tumultuous in this great empire's history. In a bid to lessen the influence of the all-powerful priests, he soon introduced a new religion to his people, with the Sun Disc (Aton, or Aten) as its God, inadvertently becoming, it is widely assumed, the world's first monotheist. He made himself the only intermediary between his people and the Aten, and changed his name to Akhenaten ("one of use to the Sun Disc").

He erected a new capital city, Akhetaten (Horizon of the Sun Disc). His sweeping changes proved unpopular — after his death, all mentions of him were erased from monuments, and his previous religions, with their powerful priesthoods, were reinstated. He is now often referred to as the Heretic or Rebel Pharaoh.

Dr Brier, who will be a guest of honour tonight at a dinner to raise money for Marfan's sufferers, says that they have come to regard the Egyptian king as an ancient friend. He says: "When I told one of the Marfan's people about Akhenaten establishing his own religion, she smiled and said she would love to have done that. It's kind of nice to feel that the King of Egypt was a kindred spirit."

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Food for thought Brain power

Stop the crop

THE FUTURE of maize which has been gene-modified could be put in jeopardy by Swiss research that shows it can kill beneficial insects as well as pests. The new results may reopen the argument over European Union authorisation for the crop, which came despite British objections and which has been challenged by two EU states, Austria and Luxembourg.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

The maize is made by Novartis (formerly Ciba Seeds) and incorporates a gene from a bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, that makes a protein poisonous to the larvae of the corn-borer. The *B. thuringiensis* protein was used as a spray against the pest, but that required application at the time the larvae emerged and before they bored into plant stems. Novartis put the gene into the plant itself.

A team at the Swiss Federal Research Station for Agroecology and Agriculture in Zurich, led by Dr Angelika Hilbeck, has found evidence that the poisonous effects of the protein can spread further. It raised plant-eating insects on *B. thuringiensis* maize plants and fed them to the larvae of lacewings — which eat crop pests.

They report in *Environmental Entomology* that the death rates of the lacewings nearly doubled, and this happened whether or not the plant-eating insects were susceptible to *B. thuringiensis*. This means that an insect

could nibble the plant, then fly off and be eaten by a lacewing, which would die. Far from the protein killing only corn-borers, as Novartis intended, it would also damage other species. Using *B. thuringiensis* as a spray would be less likely to have such effects.

The finding is another strike against a crop that has been criticised because it contains, as well as the *B. thuringiensis* gene, genes conferring antibiotic and pesticide resistance. They were put in to simplify seed production, a process described by a Ministry of Agriculture official as "sloppy genetic modification". Britain's expert committee turned down the maize, worried that the antibiotic-resistant gene would get into bacteria and make those antibiotic-resistant.

After much argument and despite objections from the European Parliament, the *B. thuringiensis* maize was approved by the European Commission. Michael Meacher, the Minister for the Environment, has said that he is "totally dissatisfied". The Commission, however, says that approval can be withdrawn only if new scientific evidence raises questions of safety. But Dr Ian Taylor, of Greenpeace, says that is what the Swiss scientists have provided. "The UK should ask the Commission to suspend authorisation immediately," he says. "If it won't, then the UK should follow Austria and Luxembourg and impose a national ban."

The bearing necessities

THINK of a familiar place. The impression it creates — say, tall buildings on one side of a street and trees

the other — seems to be the task of a specific brain part. The discovery, reported by *Nature*, came as a surprise to the research team. The area of the brain responsible — the size of a sugar cube and located in the parahippocampal cortex — responds when volunteers are shown pictures of places. The re-

sponse, say Drs Russell Epstein and Nancy Kanwisher of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is almost as strong to a scene of an empty room as it is to the same room filled with furniture. It is triggered by landmarks and landscapes, but remains inactive when faces, trees, or objects are displayed.

The results fit with those of experiments with rats and human infants, which show that when they are lost, they use the shape of a space rather than anything within it to find their bearings.

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CRIES UNHEARD: MARY BELL

'Mary is a very, very loving mother'

Motherhood turned Mary into two people, says Gitta Sereny in the fourth extract from her book

IN 1985 MARY, now married to "Rob", the father of her child, had to have a hysterectomy because of suspected cancer. Afterwards, their marriage began to show cracks...

Mary's probation officer from October, 1988, Samantha Connolly, is one of the warmest, most attractive people I would meet while I worked with Mary...

kind of inner strength in him which came to understand is absolutely crucial to Mary, she said. "I watched that little girl over five years: I don't know how Mary does this, but she is an entirely secure and happy child."

'She is an entirely secure and happy child'

Sam was impressed by the reception she was given by the little family. "Mary had been very friendly, very polite. When I phoned her, she said, "and had laid out a nicely prepared tea when I came. It's not what I'm necessarily used to when I visit clients," she laughed...

given the family model of Mary's own childhood, and the fact that her late childhood, adolescence and young adulthood was totally institutional, she has learnt to mother a child. "I watched her for years," Sam said. "It was my job, but finally it was also my pleasure. It was extremely interesting to me how she, who can stick to nothing for any length of time - jobs, courses, even ideas - was able to create lots of opportunities for the child. It is almost as if she can transfer that buried ability in herself to the child."



Mary Bell as a child: after having her own, she became "a house-proud young woman, shy and warm", says her former probation officer

Elusive truth

AFTER months of interviews, and with enormous grief and distress, Mary did eventually tell Gitta Sereny in some detail how she killed Martin Brown and Brian Howe. What she says is related towards the end of Sereny's book. We have decided not to print those details here.

THE most important development in Mary's mind during the months of remand and the weeks of the trial was that she began to dissociate herself from her own acts. In the beginning she did this deliberately, and consciously, with quite remarkable dexterity...

Mary would deny for 27 years having taken an active part in the killing of Brian Howe and only acknowledged the details when she talked to me in 1996. About Martin Brown, she denied for the first six years of her detention having had any part whatsoever in his death...

In 1975, at 18, during a brief period of group therapy in Sival Prison, she had her only positive contact with a psychiatrist, and invented a fantasy of how Martin might have died as a result of an innocent game. She told the group that she had picked Martin up by "his ears, and he slipped. It was an accident".

When I challenged her on this, she said she had thought that if she described it as "an ordinary murder" people would find it "easier to cope with".

After that, she said, she never spoke of it, except to her current partner of 11 years, until our talks in 1996, when she almost immediately admitted to having killed Martin on her own. But as I have said, it would take months, and several different versions, all related with enormous difficulty, until the last one in which she finally convinced me she was telling the nearest she would probably ever get to the truth.

A good day with grandma

A brief but happy reconciliation between Mary and her mother was followed soon after by Betty's death

IN 1993, the huge public and press interest in the James Bulger case not only caused Mary terrible anguish and guilt, but also caused the press to begin hunting for her again. It was decided that for the protection of herself and her daughter, the family should be moved back to the North East, to an area where Pat Royston knew the chief constable and could trust the local police.

asked to see her and Jim. "She sounded... small," Mary said, "and Jim said we'd meet her at a pub and she asked what we were doing for Christmas, and Jim said why didn't she come spend Christmas with us? And then I did talk to her about the child. She'd only seen her once, as a baby, and I showed her photographs and suggested she meet her before she came for Christmas."

she looked like a terribly thin little old lady. "The child ran up to her, nearly ran her down with all that energy she has, and called out 'Hiya, Granny!' and over the next four hours while we shopped and ate and walked, she wore her out, just by talking. She was such a chatterbox, my girl. But it was a really good day. I was happy."

December 27. Mary phoned her that night: there was no reply. "I phoned her on New Year's Eve and there was again no reply."

It is not known exactly when Betty died. "The neighbours saw her on New Year's Eve," Pat Royston said. "They raised the alarm on January 3."

When the police broke in they found her nude in a chair close to the gas fire. The post mortem and inquest concluded she had had pneumonia, but gave pneumonia as the cause of death. She had had some sort of attack, had managed to get up, clear the sheets off the bed and leave them and her nightdress on the bathroom floor. It appeared that she had then cleaned herself and sat down in her chair.

"I know Mary thinks she wanted to die," Pat said. "But the police didn't think it was suicide. There were vegetables and fruit on the stove. The telephone was within reach, and she had this good friend downstairs: had she shouted, she would have been heard - but it's true, she didn't shout."

Did you think that asking to stay with you for Christmas was her way of saying goodbye? I asked Mary. "Yes, yes..." she said, tentatively. "It's good that you and Jim and your little girl gave her these two days, isn't it? I said, 'She gave them to me, sort of,' she said. 'At the funeral I



Mary with her mother, Betty

Although Mary and Jim occasionally worked over the next two years, they lived mainly on social security. "I just hated, hated to be there," Mary said, "I hardly saw my mother. I'd become angrier about her after my granny McC's death. She had no right, did she, to alienate me from everybody?"

"The whole family went to granny's funeral. Only I didn't. What must they have thought? That I didn't care? I didn't know any of them. How could they know how much I cared?" "She did something even worse when Aunt Cath died. I was at her [Betty's] house, and said I was going to pop in to see Auntie Cathleen, and she didn't tell me she was dead. The funeral had been two weeks before. And I popped in like the angel of death, asking for Auntie Cath, and they looked at me as if I was mad."

"I went next door to where her oldest boy lived, my cousin R, and that's where I went berserk. He had a terrible time calming me down. Then we went back and looked at photos with my Uncle Jackie. "But all that was in me... It had gone on for so long and I was just so weary of it, of her."

But then two things happened. First, about three weeks before Christmas 1994, Betty contacted Mary and

thought, and Jim did, too, that I didn't have any right to withhold her granny than my mother had to alienate my family from me."

The date was for a week before Christmas at a shopping centre. "There were hundreds of people and the child was looking about and she asked what colour Granny's hair would be and I joked and said orange, but of course it wasn't. I saw her near the fountain; she didn't have a wig on and her hair was very thin, sort of permed and grey... she wasn't old, just 56, but

was at the front. All the family were there. "But I never got any closer to it. I did finally see my sisters. They were polite, but I knew they didn't - couldn't - want me in their lives. Our lives had been too different. I think I can understand theirs, but they cannot possibly understand mine."

"We are strangers and too much time has gone by. I do wish it wasn't so, but it is."

"A week after my mother's death I went to her flat on my own. I sat there, waiting. I don't know what for. Not a visitation, not a voice... I think I was hoping, waiting for an imaginary pat on the head, something like a 'well done' but nothing came. I just wanted... she put her hand on her stomach, "... to feel and then I thought 'Oh, ****. You come to me. You came into my home, played at grandma and then you go away and die the first time you had been a normal person around me..."

"And then Jim rang and said come home, and I nodded 'Yes, I will'."

Extracted from Cries Unheard by Gitta Sereny, published by Macmillan. Times readers can buy a copy of the book for £18 instead of the RRP of £20 by calling 01223 326400 or Times Bookshop on 0992 134459.

TOMORROW

In her powerful conclusion, Gitta Sereny explains why we must listen to our children and calls for the legal system to be changed

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THE GUILTY ONE IS YOU NOT ME

later that she had actually never read all, or even much of the book, I gave her the poem to read: "MAM I know that in my heart From you once was not apart My love for you grows More each day. When you visit me mam I'd weep once, your away I look into your eyes. So Blue and they're very sad, you try to be very cheery But I know you think I'm Bad so Bad though I really don't know. If you feel the same, and treat it as a silly game. A child who had made criminal fame Please mam put my tiny mind at ease tell Judge and Jury on your knees they will LISTEN to your cry of PLEAS

I sorry IT HAS TO BE this way Well both cry and you will go away to other gates were you are free locked up in prison cells, Your family are we, these last words I speak, on behalf of dad P... and me tell them you are guilty Please, so then mam, I'll be free. Daughter May "No, no, no..." she said, sounding distraught even while reading it. "I never, my God, I never wrote that. It's hers..." It had never occurred to me, I told her, that Betty could have written the poem. But what was most important was that if it was not Mary who had written it, but her mother, who had then felt moved to send it to me, it would have been a huge admission on her mother's part of her guilt, and her own cry for help.

Didn't Mary agree? "Well, yes, but it's not what she ever said to me. To me she only said for all those years that what she had to hide from the world was being my mother. She'd say: 'Jesus was only nailed to the cross. I'm being hammered.' "It's pathetic," she said, suddenly sounding angry, "that people would believe that I wrote this. I mean, anything I wrote was censored, and everything I received was censored and signed by the censor. How could I have written this without it being noticed and then discussed with me? Mr Dixon discussed everything with me. Why wasn't it analysed? You know, why wasn't the handwriting analysed?"

I said that as no one except her Aunt Cath had seen it until I published it in my book, it would never have occurred to anybody to doubt that Mary had written it if her mother said she had, unless they were suspicious to start with. "Well, isn't that pathetic, too?" she asked. "How was it possible..." she asked once again, in a mixture of anger and helplessness, "that they, you know, the social services and all these clever people, knew nothing about me, about her?"

Y MAY 4 1998 in power rop could make the place then it all can be seen to a... necessities ty PC FREE PRINTER 266MHz Pentium 64MB RAM 6.4Gb Hard Disk

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Star attraction: Siobhan Davies's fine new work *Eighty Eight*, centrepiece of her company's tenth anniversary tour

Daring to celebrate

It's three decades since Siobhan Davies's invention? After three decades spent making dances, the doyenne of British choreographers shows no signs of flagging. Her newest piece, *Eighty Eight*, which was premiered at the Oxford Playhouse on Thursday, finds her creative energies at an all-time high, and her desire to explore the language of dance made even more ambitious by age and experience.

The new piece is the star attraction of the Siobhan Davies Dance Company's tenth anniversary tour. But where another choreographer would be tempted to mark such a milestone with a little self-congratulation, Davies looks forward to an ever more uncertain terrain. Her choice of music is anything but celebratory. Conlon Nanorow's wildly eccentric studies for the player-piano suggest a keyboard in crisis. Scouring

The programme couples *Eighty Eight* with *Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues*, a work Davies made in 1992 for Rambert and here reworks for her own company. Like *Eighty Eight*, it is physically rich, churning with the industry implicit in Frederic Rzewski's piano score (and enhanced by Roger Heaton and Mark Underwood's effective soundscape of mill machinery noise). But unlike *Eighty Eight*, the movement is linked by a unifying theme and informed by universal images.

The ten dancers could be factory workers, trapped in an endless cycle of manual exertion and spiritual deprivation as they seek to appease the god of manufacturing. Runs of frustration pepper the choreography, and eloquent physical pictures keep reappearing that attest to the monotony and routine of the job.

The ceaseless energy is exhausting, the choreography regimented in both formation and gesture so that bodies speak as both man and machine. But cracks in the dancers' personal machinery are allowed to peek through and just before curtain falls, we begin to feel a sense of them as people whose dreams lie beyond the factory floor.

For all its excellence, though, *Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues* is not the ideal partner to *Eighty Eight*. The two works share too much — labour-intensive choreography, parched emotions and a strident score — and putting them together only erodes their cumulative impact.

But as always with this company, the dancers are superb. They are as intelligent and inspired a group of individuals as you will find anywhere. And, most importantly, they give their choreographer the freedom to dare.

DEBRA CRAINE

South of Southport, down Mexico way

Unlike many new bands who attract reams of press coverage before their first single, only to be deemed a disappointment before they have recorded their second, Gomez seem to have arrived fully formed. In the space of a month and with little media fanfare they have released their first single, their debut album *Bring It On* and have the live show to back the records up.

Seeing Gomez on stage, it is difficult to believe that they did not play in public until the end of last year. In terms of live performances, they have still to reach double figures, but this, their first major London shows last Thursday, they offered the Astoria audience a bargain menu of all you could hear for £8.50.

Opening act Carrie are an Anglo-Australian-American quartet whose heat-and-serve melodies, such as the current single *California Screamin'*, are encased in power chords but still belong at the beach. Co-headliners Everclear, from Portland, Oregon, have six months of service on American charts with their third album, the gold-rated *So Much For the Afterglow*.

That record opens with the layered harmonies of the title track, and bottle-blond lead singer Art Alexakis can seem

Souped-up of the day

ACROSS the country over the past fortnight, three acts have been laddled from the cross-cultural saucenpan of late 1990s guitar rock, all of them betraying influences well beyond their designated cuisine.

At the first of two London shows last Thursday, they offered the Astoria audience a bargain menu of all you could hear for £8.50.

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That record opens with the layered harmonies of the title track, and bottle-blond lead singer Art Alexakis can seem

Cut the third degree

LAST Thursday evening signs outside the Shepherds Bush Empire alerted gig-goers to the strobe lighting which was to feature in Curve's first UK performance for five years.

The warning, however, did not prepare the audience for the dazzling assault from sweeping, violet searchlights and blinding white beams which dramatically signalled the start of the show.

For a lot of the hour-long set, in fact, it was less traumatic to listen to the tough, techno beats (programmed, not played) which blasted around the auditorium than it was to look straight at the stage. Only in the short breaks between songs could the crowd clearly see that Curve had the appearance of a conventional, four-piece guitar group.

Singer Toni Halliday, dressed down in jeans, trainers and a black leather jacket, stood centre stage. Flanked by guitarist Rob Holiday and Dean Garcia on bass, and

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THE INTERGALACTIC SMASH HIT THAT'S ROCKIN' SHAFESBURY AVENUE!
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DAYLIGHT ROBBERY

Blair has connived in a shameful political hold-up

On paper, the European Central Bank set up to manage the single currency is the most independent in the world, enjoying an immunity from political scrutiny which even the mighty Federal Reserve cannot claim.

As for Tony Blair, whose deal this was as current British president of the council, he has sullied his reputation for plain dealing by declaring that Wim Duisenberg's "voluntary" statement about stepping down early as ECB president preserves "the sanctity" of the Maastricht treaty.

LEADERSHIP IN LONDON

The peace process needs separate issues to be unpackaged

The linked meetings between Binyamin Netanyahu, Yassir Arafat and Madeleine Albright in London today are probably not a make-or-break moment for the Middle East peace process.

include almost all the remaining Palestinians. While this disagreement continues, the Palestinians will not sign contracts on their own airport and industrial park.

TAKING THE PUBLIC FOR A RIDE

The White Paper must stiffen control of rail fat-cats

Public disillusion with the antics of the fat-cat directors who have profited from rail privatisation has now been powerfully reinforced by some damning statistics.

isolated rural stations on the network can be difficult. Silverlink runs trains on one of the most dilapidated stretches of the British network, and is making genuine efforts to run a proper suburban service despite grime, urban decay and vandalism.

Lessons from the case of Mary Bell

From Anne Wade
Sir, The most valuable gift that Gitta Sereny has made to Mary Bell letters, April 29 and 30: May 1 and 2 is to relate to her in such a way that Mary could afford to think honestly about what she had done, and why, and make a little reparation by helping our understanding.

Mothers in today's labour market

From Miss L.J. Wright
Sir, David Conway assumes much when he asserts that "for large numbers of women, perhaps most, being a full-time mother to pre-school children is the most worthwhile, fulfilling and dignified role they can ever assume".

Museums to mark man's inhumanity

From Professor Joseph Roitblat, FRSE
Sir, The plans for the millennium have all been laid, but we should still entertain ideas that seem to have been overlooked. In the celebration of the new millennium we quite rightly emphasise the great achievements of the past, the many material and cultural riches that we bequeath to future generations.

How does the Church manage?

From the Venerable B. H. Lucas
Sir, I am sorry that the Reverend Nicolas Stacey (letter, April 28) offered such an absurd solution to his analysis of the quality of leadership in the Church today.

the Reverend Nicolas Stacey once again reinforces the perception that men and women come to ordination straight from university and college, having followed no other career before answering their vocation.

Monuments at risk

From Mr Colin Schlappobersky
Sir, It is gratifying to read sympathetic comment on public monuments and sculpture (letters, April 27 and 28). Clearly these works of art, together with numerous war memorials, hold a distinct and affectionate place in the heart of a civilised country.

Diana logo

From the President of the Institute of Trade Mark Agents
Sir, Margaret Murray (letter, April 28) argues that trade mark registration is not the right way to protect Princess Diana's reputation. I take issue with her conclusions.

Moving tale

From Mr M. J. Soley
Sir, The Evans's frustrating experience with a council which refuses to accept their caravan as a true "mobile home" (report, "Moving tale of a couple who put down roots", April 29) raises the perennial problem of individualism v planning regulations.

Naming and shaming

From Mr John Thaxter
Sir, In the interests of historical record, intrusive later-day editing of items featured in On This Day is a temptation that should be resisted.

By any other name...

From Mr Ian G. Cross
Sir, I was interested to see that, helping to bring up the rear in the list of finishers in the London Marathon (May 1), K. Sore was in 27,936th position, with M. Sore one place behind. Further down, in 28,600th place, was K. Stiff, closely followed by P. Stiff. If I run next year, but do not finish, my name will also say it all.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

NEWS

Industry faces threat of recession

The pound is expected to soar in unusual Bank holiday trading, bringing a new threat of recession to the manufacturing industry after the weekend's messy compromise over who should lead the new Central European Bank.

The rest of Europe faces the prospect of a concerted rise in interest rates. Page 1

Efforts intensify to save peace talks

Madeleine Albright arrived in London as America intensified efforts to avert a breakdown of today's Middle East talks that many participants were already dismissing as doomed.

The American Secretary of State joined Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, at a private dinner where they planned an agenda to rescue the deadlocked Middle East peace process. Page 1

Footballer's suicide

The apparent suicide of Justin Fashanu, the footballer on the run from American police for allegedly sexually assaulting a 17-year-old boy, has stunned those who saw him happily leaving a gay sauna.

Pages 1, 5

Pressure on Cook

Robin Cook will come under pressure to make a Commons statement about an alleged breach of the United Nations arms embargo on Sierra Leone.

Page 2

Rubber duck threat

The rubber duck is heading for extinction if the EU Commissioner Emma Bonino gets her way.

Page 3

Boxer injured

A boxer was in hospital after undergoing a three-hour operation to remove a blood clot from his brain suffered during a bout at the weekend.

Page 3

Actors' sorrow

Colleagues of the actor Kevin Lloyd, who portrayed detective Tosh Lines in ITV's The Bill, spoke of their shock and sadness at his sudden death at the weekend.

Page 6

Service charge

Two train firms whose directors made millions from selling their stakes will be named this month as showing the biggest deterioration in service.

Page 8

Fat-cat lawyers are lapping it up

If lawyers truly are fat cats, then it is not because of legal aid earnings but their dining habits. A survey has found that lawyers spend £70 million a year in restaurants.

Page 1



Gül Coskun viewing some Andy Warhol prints on her stand at the London Original Print Fair at the Royal Academy of Arts

- ACROSS
1 Cash to start business in empty apartment (5).
4 Device for connecting sound with incomplete working keyboard (6,3).
9 He gets single insertion in guide to cookery books (9).
10 Made runs but after opener's dismissal lost heart (5).
11 Does such an actor never enjoy a run? (9,6).
12 Dawn showing through skylights (6).
14 A frontal blow that takes one aback (8).
17 Source of wood that could produce a fire in chimney (8).
19 Welshman making potentially great husband (6).
22 Suffering had not broken these early American settlers (8,7).
24 Took horses to ring for cowboy display (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,781 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

BUSINESS

Aircraft switch: British Airways, Boeing's most loyal international customer, has given a strong sign that it will opt for rival Airbus planes in a deal that could be worth £2 billion.

Traffic jam: Demand for details of the Thomson Travel flotation, which offers perks to small investors, has been so great that a heavy backlog has built up ahead of this week's deadline.

End of the party: Granada, which bought the Forte hotels empire, is selling three of the most famous party conference hotels.

Power talks: PowerGen, the privatised electricity generator, is in talks with an American power company that could lead to a merger of interests.

FEATURES

Loving mother: Motherhood turned Mary Bell into two people, says Gitta Sereny in the fourth extract from Crises Unheard.

Small wonders: Choosing styles to suit children can be made easy by mail order, says Grace Bradberry, Style Editor.

Anticent secret: A rare genetic disorder may link an Egyptian king and modern sufferers, says Anjana Ahuja.

Nigel Hawkes: The future of gene-modified maize could be put in jeopardy by Swiss research that shows it can kill beneficial insects as well as pests.

ARTS

Melvyn Bragg: "When I faced the questionnaire and 'How much do you think a writer needs to live on?' my first feeling was - that's my business."

Fear of fame: Joseph Fiennes has always been in the shadow of his elder brother Ralph, but now with three films on the way he is finding himself basking in a glare of publicity.

Going strong: After three decades spent making dances, Siobhan Davies, the doyenne of British choreographers, shows no signs of flagging.

Fully formed: Seeing Gomez on stage at Dingwalls in North London, it is hard to believe they did not play in public until the end of last year.

SPORT

Football: Arsenal secured their first championship since 1991 with a comprehensive 4-0 victory over Everton at Highbury.

Football: Middlesbrough guaranteed their return to the FA Cup Premier Division and condemned Sunderland to the play-offs by beating Oxford 4-1.

Racing: Cape Verdi, ridden by Frankie Dettori, produced an electrifying burst of speed to win the 1,000 Guineas.

Rugby union: Saracens maintained their hopes of winning the Allied Dunbar Premiership title.

Rugby league: Sheffield Eagles produced perhaps the greatest upset in the history of the sport with their stirring victory over Wigan Warriors in the Challenge Cup final.

Snooker: John Higgins took an early grip on the final of the Embassy world championship by establishing a 6-2 lead over Ken Doherty.

Winning numbers: 2, 4, 16, 28, 24, 49. Bonus number: 47. One ticketholder won the £8.3 million jackpot.



Anticent secret: A rare genetic disorder may link an Egyptian king and modern sufferers, says Anjana Ahuja.

TOMORROW

ARTS Artist Anish Kapoor surprises his fans with an outstanding show at the Hayward

LAW Martin Mears questions the achievements of the legal watchdog

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,782

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-24 indicating starting positions for across and down words.

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table with columns for region, road number, and condition. Includes entries for UK, Wales, and Scotland.

World City Weather

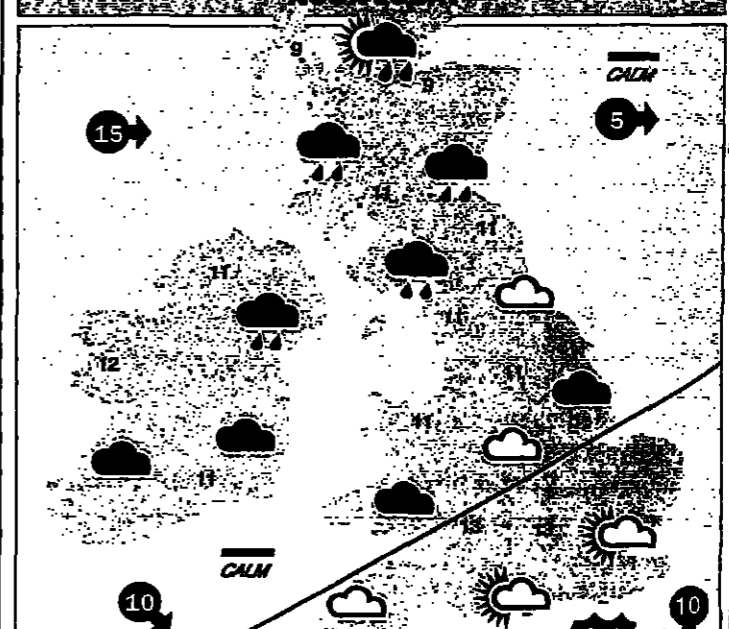
Table listing weather conditions for various world cities including London, New York, Tokyo, and Sydney.

FORECAST

General: cloudy start across Scotland and Northern Ireland with some light rain, clearing to leave sunny spells and scattered showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather data for various locations in Britain, including temperature, wind, and precipitation.



Changes to chart below from noon: low H will stay near eastern Ireland and fill; low B moves NE and deepens; high A in mid-Atlantic slowly declines westwards

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table listing highest and lowest temperatures for various locations in Britain.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.3% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

CANT CEDAR WOOD FOR THE TREES!

Advertisement for OWPA (Oxford Wood Protection Association) promoting recycled paper products.

ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations including Tokyo, London, and Sydney.

HIGH TIDES

Table listing high tide times for various coastal locations in Britain.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations in Britain.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured, featuring the text 'Double after' and 'Wright holds the...'

MAY 4 1998
LISTINGS
We have a special
review of the
to a gay man

OPINION
robbery
hip in London
or a ride

COLUMNS
RIDDELL
M REES-MOGG
EY LEE

OBITUARIES
LETTERS

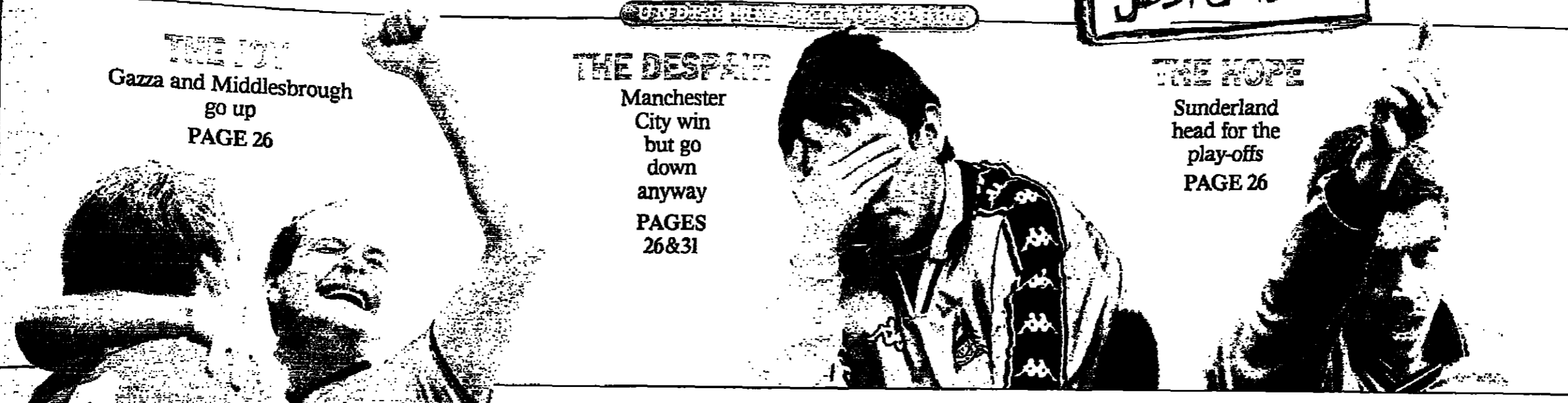
THE PAPERS

كنا من الأصل

THE JOY
Gazza and Middlesbrough
go up
PAGE 26

THE DESPAIR
Manchester
City win
but go
down
anyway
PAGES
26&31

THE HOPE
Sunderland
head for the
play-offs
PAGE 26



SPORT

MONDAY MAY 4 1998

CHAMPIONS - 1931, '33, '34, '35, '38, '48, '53, '71, '89, '91, 1998



Wright holds the FA Carling Premiership trophy aloft at the end of an outstanding Arsenal display in which Overmars, right, scored two of the four goals. Adams scored the last and had a hand in the first

Double beckons for Arsenal after ruthless performance

By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN four goals had bulged the back of the Everton net and the tension, finally, had been dispelled in a glorious catharsis of celebration, a man in a grey suit walked down the wide steps of the Highbury tunnel and emerged on to the pitch carrying the FA Carling Premiership trophy. A few minutes later, accompanied by a deafening cacophony of howling and cheering, England's new league champions followed him out.

Arsenal have been involved in uproarious endings to championship struggles before, of course, most notably in 1989, but yesterday they had finished off this one, their seventh title, quite beautifully. The nerves were gone and the football that has taken them to an astonishing ten successive wins took over again and rocketed them out of the forlorn reach of Manchester United.

And afterwards, when they emerged blinking into the late afternoon sunlight dancing and prancing and donning a variety of red and white wigs and jesters' hats, it was Adams who led them out. He walked slowly along the black carpet that had been laid out for the team, climbed on to the dais in front of the North Bank, gave the trophy a quick peck and hoisted it aloft.



Wenger's joy is unconfined as the final whistle goes and he becomes the first foreign manager to win the title

Wenger, the first foreign coach to win the English championship, took his turn and the crowd pumped the volume up even higher.

When he had battled his way back to the sanctuary of the tunnel, Wenger, who also won the French title with AS Monaco, stood by the door that led to Highbury's famous marble halls and held court. He said that team spirit had been his player of the season and that it had been embodied by that fourth goal and the late contribution of Boulud. And as he celebrated the French evolution he has wrought upon this club, he gloried in the honour of his triumph.

people thought a foreign manager could not win the championship. I knew, too, that if we did not win it having come so far, it would be a disaster for us. I tried to keep everybody professional and calm.

"Of course, I am very proud to be the first foreign manager to do it. I know how difficult it is to win the title in England. For me, it is one way to pay back the confidence that the directors showed in me when they appointed me. I accepted that I was an unknown and that I had to do well to show that I was able to succeed. I felt at one moment that the championship was over even if I could not say it. When we were 13 points behind and we knew how strong Manchester United

were, it was difficult to imagine that there could be any way back from that.

"But when we beat them at Old Trafford, the players started to believe that we could do it again. I did not expect us to win it this season because we made so many changes at the start of the year. But we just got stronger as the season continued. I just want to relax tonight with a good dinner and a good French wine. Wenger will be allowed time to relax, too. He has transformed Arsenal with great wisdom, resisting any temptation to dismantle a defence that works in perfect harmony and choosing instead to graft on to the back four players with pace, strength and guile.

Middlesbrough go up 26
Vintage champions 27
Saviour Klinsmann 28
Lyane Truss 31

Yesterday, it was Marc Overmars, one of his most crucial buys, who ripped Everton apart with his speed. He was just too quick for the ageing Everton rearguard. Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira, the two Frenchmen he bought to anchor the centre of midfield, were superb, too. On the sidelines, the injured Dennis Bergkamp watched in his tracksuit before joining in the celebrations. Not even a nasty injury to Petit caused by a two-footed tackle from Don Hutchison could spoil Arsenal's day. It was thought at first that Petit had broken his leg but afterwards, as the Frenchman swigged champagne in the tunnel, Wenger said he would almost certainly be fit for the Cup Final on Saturday week. "That is our next great challenge," Wenger said. The Double beckons.

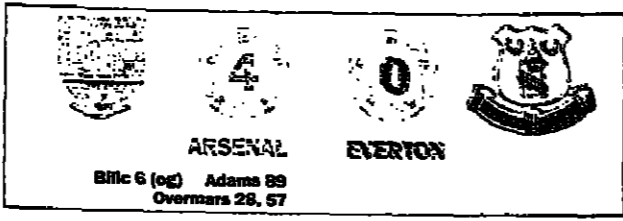
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FA Carling Premiership: Comprehensive defeat leaves Everton standing on brink of relegation

Arsenal time title run-in to perfection

THE sun shone literally and metaphorically on Arsenal at Highbury...



BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

It was a disastrous result for Everton, leaving them with 39 points from their 37 games...

This victory over Everton was not without its bleak side. Petit, injured just before half-time...

It gave Arsenal's fans particular pleasure that their fourth goal, in the twentieth minute...

after a through-pass from Bould, his fellow defender. Everton took the field in a state of extreme denial...

Equally difficult to comprehend was the slowness with which Howard Kendall, who has seen much better days at Everton...

Sooner or later Arsenal had to score again but when they did it was, somewhat surprisingly, thanks to Myhrre's mistake...

Overmars scored again after 57 minutes, exploiting a somewhat lucky rebound to race on and beat Myhrre with another left-footer...

beautifully, first time, but Myhrre turned the ball resourcefully behind. Execution was merely delayed...

Despite their reinforced defence, Everton were never able to cope with Overmars. In these early minutes, their goal tottered time and again...

The goalkeeper had to come quickly out of his box just beating Anelka to a long ball from Petit...

Ferguson, frustrated perhaps by being left so lonely at the front, initiated a brawl with Keown...

Overmars scored again after 57 minutes, exploiting a somewhat lucky rebound to race on and beat Myhrre...



Overmars, at full stretch, scores his second goal and Arsenal's third in the victory that secured the championship for the London side

Champions show champagne style

Modern vintage combines former qualities with the finest in imported, continental flair

It was easy to mock Arsenal once, even when they were triumphant. Polite society shunned them the last time that they won the league seven years ago...

This time, it is impossible to damn them with faint praise, not because they have surprised everybody...

The grit and the fight is still there, they can still mix it with the best of them — they have not lost that in their French evolution...

Popular with the press because of his unswerving courtesy and his articulacy, he has exhibited a remarkable talent for diffusing tensions...

players and emphasised the importance of the team.

If the defence, including the redoubtable David Seaman, was the rock on which this success was built...

There was a period in the winter when Arsenal's season reached its nadir with limp defeats against Derby County, Sheffield Wednesday and Blackburn Rovers...

Wright, the curmudgeons may still say that the title was lost by United, not won by Arsenal...

At the start of the season, United did seem to be the class of the field.

destruction, and Marc Overmars, the winger, whose pace was so important in stretching defences...

Despite all this, despite the evidence of the sublime goals and elaborate artistry of Bergkamp...

When Arsenal had to do the same, they discovered that the shelves were groaning with riches...

It was all made possible by the victory they had achieved at Old Trafford on March 14, a win that made it clear to everybody that Arsenal now posed a real threat...

And as Arsenal rattled in the goals, sweeping all before them, their supporters bathed in the joy of the team's new incarnation...

OLIVER HOLT



were as dependable as ever. But the loss of Roy Keane in the autumn hit them harder than anyone realised.

Dunfermline prolong race for Bell's Scottish League title and ease the pain of defeat for Rangers

Celtic miss chance to end ten years of waiting

Table with 11 columns: P, W, D, L, Goals, Pts, Clean sheets, Second place, Win title by

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

CELTIC supporters gathered at East End Park yesterday in expectation of a sunlit exorcism, but not all the demons that have gathered over the ten years without a Bell's Scottish League premier division title could quite be driven out...

Wim Jansen's side are now two points clear at the top of the table, after Rangers' 1-0 defeat by Kilmarnock on Saturday...

On a bare, uneven pitch that interfered mischievously with many a move, Celtic could not sustain the domination that had been slowly built up in the first half...

In methodical fashion, Celtic brought their influence to bear slowly and took the lead after 35 minutes. Phil O'Donnell's tackle minutes. Phil O'Donnell's tackle minutes.

corner of the net. Celebrations broke out in many areas of the ground, but the revellers seemed oblivious to the task that still lay before Celtic...

Although Larsson clipped the outside of the post, the key moment may have come in the 73rd minute, when the same tireless forward twisted into the penalty area before going down as Ireland challenged from behind...

Such incidents were gathering in significance, for Celtic had begun to accept that they might have to steel themselves and simply endure the concluding phase of the contest. Dunfermline, already safe for another season in the premier division, had no obvious incentives, but they are a club with a keen sense of their own dignity...

Their goal came from the centre circle, from a free kick by McCulloch that was thumped forward for Faulconbridge to rise and loop a header over Gould, the Celtic goalkeeper, into the far corner of the net...

Yet by then, there was an inevitability about the frustration. Celtic

have now drawn their past two matches, scoring just one goal in the process. With Rangers facing an away match at Dundee United on Saturday, their circumstances are still enviable, but the lack of ruthlessness that converts promise to achievement continues to be a source of dismay for Celtic...

Their great rivals, however, are also experiencing distress. When, last month, Rangers defeated Celtic in the Tennents Scottish Cup and then in the league, it was impossible not to conclude that there was a resurgence at Ibrox...

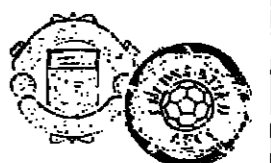
Briefly, Rangers shared the lead in the premier division, but their real condition was soon revealed in a defeat at Aberdeen. On Saturday, Walter Smith, the manager who is soon to be succeeded by Dick Advocaat, and many of his players were making their final appearance at Ibrox...

Kilmarnock's win was delivered by a goal from Mitchell, the substitute, in the third minute of stoppage time. Ibrox was then the site of abject misery for the Rangers players and their followers, but yesterday afternoon the sense of doom receded a little.

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC (3-5-2): Wetherhead — A Todd, J Squires, C Haining — G Shields, H French (capt), S Payne (20min), M Miller (sub: D Ingram), D J Macdonald, S McCulloch — A Smith, G Britton (sub: C Faulconbridge, 77). CELTIC (3-5-2): J Gould — E Annan, A Stubbs, M Flaherty — J Macnamara (sub: H Braithwaite 85), P Lamont, C Murray, P O'Donnell (sub: M Waghorn 85), T Boyd — S Doran, H Larsson. Referee: J Lindrind



The Celtic bench can barely believe their eyes as Dunfermline equalise, denying them the title



MANCHESTER UNITED v LEEDS UNITED Today, 5.0



David Maddock. It will be a strange experience for the new, middle-class members of Manchester United's audience today — watching a game with nothing at stake.

Alex Ferguson has said he will be pruning dead wood at Old Trafford and bringing in some young saplings. That process could begin today.

There could be an FA Carling Premiership debut for Alex Notman, a prolific goalscorer, which would increase suspicions that Teddy Sheringham is to be sold.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — M Clegg, G Poddier, H Berg, P Neville — D Beckford, P Scholes, N Butt, P Malyne — A Cole, A Noorran. LEEDS UNITED (probable 3-5-2): N Merry, G Hilly, I Rodon, M Hill, D Wetherhead, I Harte — G Hule, A Heald, L Bowyer — J F Hobbs, H Kinnear. Referee: G Widdow.

TELEVISION: Today: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 4.30pm. PREDICTION: Going out with a whimper, a draw.

Y MAY 4 1998 -7-offs eases tale Cities

Aldridge bows out in typical fashion

FA Carling Premiership: Gross deflects praise from Tottenham striker after four-goal display

Klinsmann lives up to billing of saviour

LIKE some spoilt child who gets his own way or else, Jürgen Klinsmann has been threatening to take the ball home with him ever since the day he returned to Tottenham Hotspur...



WIMBLEDON 2 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 6

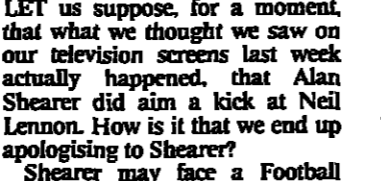
By Matt Dickinson

without a right-footed full back and was, therefore, forced to play Thatcher on the wrong side. Unfortunately, against Ginola, he was made to look as if he had two left feet.



Fists clenched, Klinsmann wheels away in celebration after scoring one of his four goals

No hiding place for Shearer



NEWCASTLE UNITED 3 CHELSEA 1

By David Powell

LET us suppose, for a moment, that what we thought we saw on our television screens last week actually happened. That Alan Shearer did aim a kick at Neil Lennon. How is it that we end up apologising to Shearer?

after the Chelsea player-manager had been booked. Whether Shearer's oratory will win over the FA's disciplinarians is open to question, but should he fail and be banned, it would not take effect until next season.

Bolton's timely run of form raises hopes of great escape



BOLTON WANDERERS 5 CRYSTAL PALACE 2

By David Maddock

AS THE players said their farewells to the Reebok Stadium for the season, you almost expected Steve McQueen to burst from the stands on a motorbike and roar around a lap of the pitch.

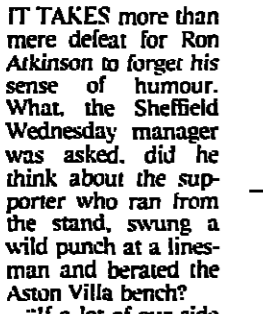
silence the home support, briefly, for the only time. And good goals they were too. Gordon, advancing down the left barely a minute after the opener, took a pass from Curcio and smashed it into the roof of the net from 30 yards.

Clearly, White Hart Lane is not big enough for the two of them and, while it appears certain that Klinsmann will depart, he declined to confirm as much in an interview on Saturday evening.



Gross: "I have helped him"

Wednesday lack fight to offer test for Villa



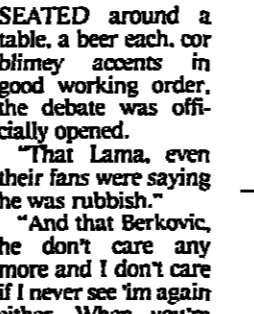
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1 ASTON VILLA 3

By Richard Hobson

IT TAKES more than mere defeat for Ron Atkinson to forget his sense of humour. What the Sheffield Wednesday manager was asked, did he think about the supporter who ran from the stand, swung a wild punch at a linesman and headed the Aston Villa bench?

Yet Villa were little better until they took the lead after 20 minutes. Nelson shrugged off Hinchcliffe and crossed for Yorke to sweep a first-time effort beyond Pressman.

West Ham feel force of Liverpool backlash



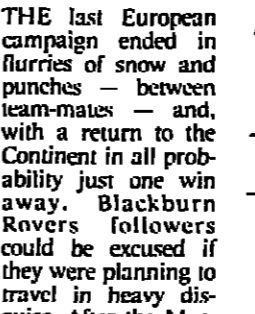
LIVERPOOL 5 WEST HAM UNITED 0

By Peter Robinson

SEATED around a table, a beer each, cor blimey accents in good working order, the debate was officially opened.

who in turn released Owen. His blinding pace and perfect finish typified a display to delight Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, who was watching. He was, as the man said, awesome.

Blackburn revert to self-destruct mode

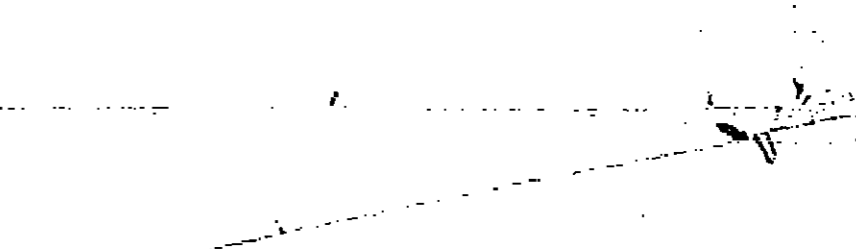
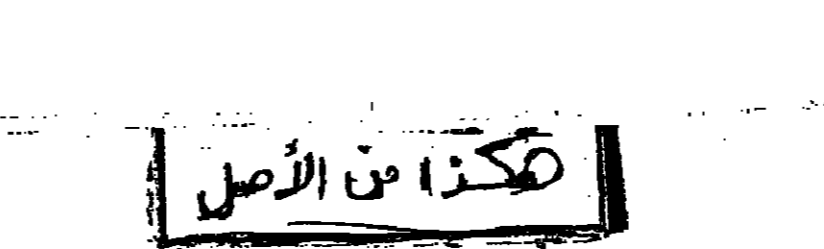
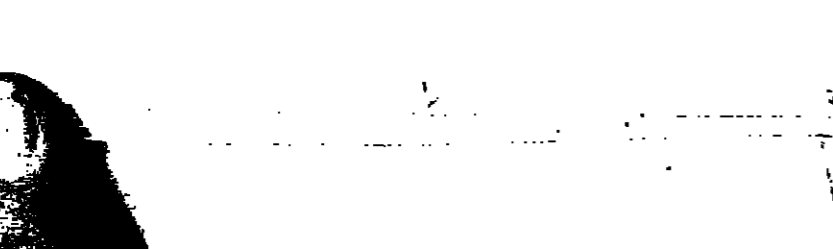


COVENTRY CITY 2 BLACKBURN ROVERS 0

By Keith Pike

THE last European campaign ended in flurries of snow and punches — between team-mates — and, with a return to the Continent in all probability just one win away.

little excuse he had. Lodge, alerted by the buzzer in Vospers's flag, later confirmed that Flowers had repeated his abusive language four times.



Various advertisements including 'FA Carling Barns', 'Hayles goal nets Rovers costly path to play-offs', and 'Blackburn revert to self-destruct mode'.

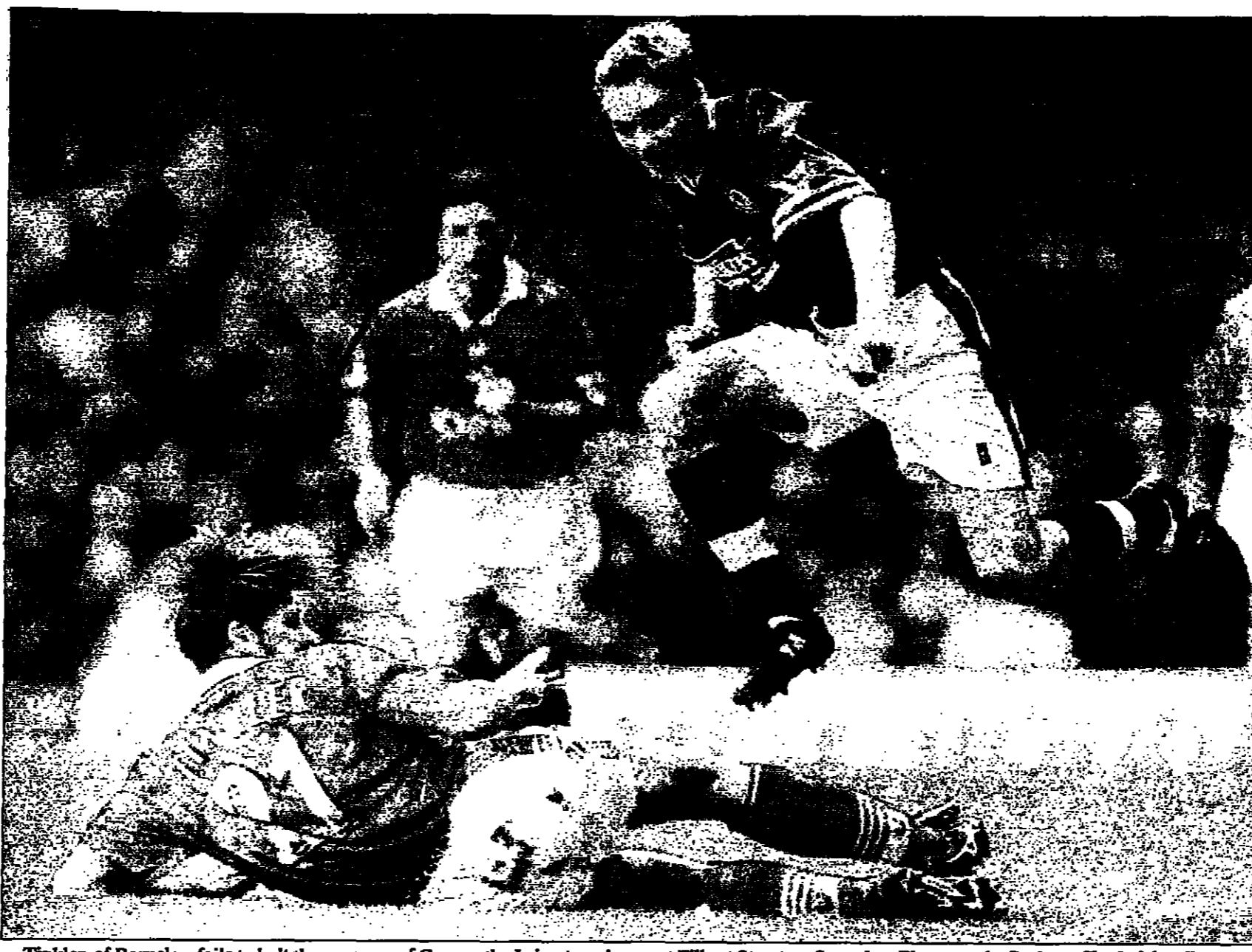
FA Carling Premiership: Defeat ends romantic adventure for football's favourite underdogs

Barnsley finally bow to the inevitable



LEICESTER CITY 1 BARNSLEY 0 By Mark Hodgkinson

THE large man in a thick overcoat was flanked by two stewards. At the final whistle, he walked slowly and reluctantly around the edge of the pitch, invisible bricks around his seats, an invisible brick in his heart. When the television people set about him with their blazing lights at Filbert Street on Saturday, he managed to rouse a semblance of fighting talk. Since his is an unfamiliar face, the strapline was provided: "John Dennis, Barnsley Chairman. It's been a wonderful experience, just to be part of the Premiership..." he began. He has learnt to put on a good show, to focus on the positive and talk it up for a microphone.



Tinkler, of Barnsley, fails to halt the progress of Guppy, the Leicester winger, at Filbert Street on Saturday. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

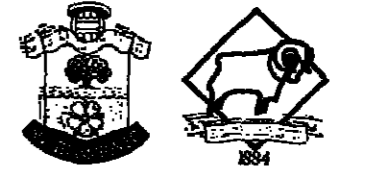
are forced to rely on exuberance more than enterprise. They played similar tactical formations and, like two people continually bumping into each other in a narrow corridor, there was nowhere to move, no way out. Much has been made of Barnsley's improvement in the second half of the season, but their form in recent weeks has been poor and, in truth, they have not looked like an FA Carling Premiership side. Their passing has disintegrated and their celebrated heart and endeavour have been hard to discern in the final run-in of eight games, which has included six defeats. Against Leicester City, Neil

Redfern, their captain and best player in adversity, was often caught in possession and his lack of pace and incisiveness epitomised the whole team. Leicester stirred themselves enough to create a goal 12 minutes into the second half. Guppy's cross was turned into the path of Zagorakis, who poked it home without conviction. The goal secured a win that will be vital if Leicester are to qualify once more for Europe. Bosanic, who had replaced the ineffective Tinkler for Barnsley, provided an unnecessary sprig of excitement when he twice fouled Zagorakis and was sent off five minutes before full time.

Afterwards, Wilson implored that no one ask him the obvious. "Don't anyone dare ask me how I feel," he said. He was asked, instead, how his players felt. Since he had seen some of them break down in tears on the pitch, we already knew the answer. "Their confidence is very low at the moment. They are absolutely gutted to have their Premiership place taken away from them. They are very disappointed. Some of them are weeping back there." While he spoke, laughter and chatter rang out from an adjoining hospitality room. Glasses were being chinked, greetings exchanged. The constant hum of merriment was irritating and disrespect-

ful. In one room, a wake of sorts, in another, a party of sorts. "People will have sympathy with us for about two minutes, but that will be it," Wilson said. The Premiership party will continue without Barnsley, though their neat, flamboyant football, the romance that they provided and their damn good heart will surely linger for longer than Wilson predicts. LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller - I Marshall, M Elliot, S Walsh - R Savage, T Zagorakis, N Lennan, M Izuel, S Guppy - E Huxley, A Collins (sub: G Fenton, 89th).

Jones finds his luck is out yet again



SOUTHAMPTON 0 DERBY COUNTY 2 By Brian Glanville

FOOTBALL can be capricious. Football can be cruel. Paul Jones, the Southampton goalkeeper, would hardly disagree. Before this mediocre game began on Saturday, he was invested with the Southampton player-of-the-year award, narrowly beating Carlton Palmer. He had plainly been forgiven for the appalling howler that he had committed in Southampton's previous game at The Dell, when he ran out of the box, kicked at the ball and missed it completely, enabling Carl Leaburn, of Wimbledon, to put it into the empty net. On this occasion, Jones succeeded in giving away both goals. Derby County gaining a somewhat unexpected victory. The second of these goals, close to the end, was again the stuff of pure fiasco. Dodd angled a back pass to the goalkeeper, who had abundant time and space to deal with it. Instead, comically, he kicked the ball straight at the advancing Dean Shurridge, whence it rebounded, tantalisingly slowly, over the line and into the goal. Derby's first goal arrived after six minutes of the second half. Jones rushed ill-advisedly out of goal to try to collect Rowett's right-wing corner. Delap anticipated him, flicking the ball on for Dailly to head against the bar, then into the net. When Southampton gained their last, late corner, Jones, with a futile gesture, cheered by the crowd, trotted towards the Derby area - but it was not his day. He could not even get there in time. Southampton's hopes faded when Francis Benali was sent off, five minutes after the first goal, for allegedly elbowing Shurridge. He had already been given the foul and, as David Jones, his manager, said, should simply have walked away. This was his eleventh expulsion. It was a bleak afternoon for admirers of Matthew Le Tissier. David Jones had to admit: "I've seen him play better." So, indeed, have we all. SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P Jones - J Dodd, K Mouskou, C Ludvigsen, R Bales - C Palmer, M Oakley, R Boppre (sub: A Williams, 78th), M Le Tissier - E Ostersund, D Hirst (sub: S Southam, 69).

Hayles goal nets Rovers costly path to play-offs

BRISTOL Rovers' qualification for the second division play-offs might have delighted the home supporters at the Memorial Ground on Saturday, but it proved costly for the management. Barry Hayles scored the winning goal in the 24 victory against Brentford and it meant that Rovers now have to pay Stevenage Borough a sum of £50,000. When Hayles moved from Stevenage to the West Country for a fee of £250,000 last summer, a condition of the deal was that Rovers would have to pay extra if Hayles reached 25 goals for the season. With an admirable sense of timing - though not for Brentford, who were relegated - he reached the total with only six minutes remaining. Rovers will play Northampton Town in the play-off semi-finals - Fulham and Grimsby Town meet in the other match - but Gillingham and Wrexham will rue what might have been after missing out on goals scored. Gillingham drew 0-0 at home to Wigan Athletic and Wrexham's 3-1 win away to Southend.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: FULHAM CONTEST PLAY-OFFS DESPITE DEFEAT BY SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Taylor assured of fans' vote

Fulham.....1 Watford.....2 By IVO TENNANT GRAHAM TAYLOR, like the Prime Minister, has been in office for exactly one year. He, too, was well aware last May of his exact public. What he did not let on, not until Watford were assured of becoming champions of the Nationwide League second division on Saturday, was the concern that he felt over whether he would be able to cope once more with management at this level of the game. After all, two decades had passed since Taylor had had to concern himself with the old third division. And there had been the little matter of managing England on a wider stage in the interim. How, then, could he motivate himself sufficiently to propel Watford back on to a higher plane?

"The key," he said, "is the relationship I have had with the players, some of whom have won nothing before now." He could have spoken, too, of the relationship he has with the supporters. After Watford's victory over Fulham, and when the news of Bristol City's defeat was picked up from the numerous radios held aloft on the shale at Craven Cottage, Taylor strode over to a crowd that he has empathised with for so many years and punched the air in delight. No matter that this precipitated a pitch invasion. It was harmonious enough, not least because Fulham had learnt that, in spite of losing, they had a place in the play-offs. Those Watford supporters who swung on the crossbar of one of the goals had, for once, no intention of dismantling it. Watford never really looked as if they would lose, even when Beardsley, who will remain on loan with Fulham until at least the end of the play-offs, struck a superlative, right-footed goal from just outside the penalty area. Had he played in his customary central attacking position and not been deployed, bewilderingly, on the left side of midfield for much of the match, the result might well have been different. Beardsley was once far from Taylor's favourite player, yet there was generosity in his praise on Saturday. "Peter is a very good lad. It was from about that angle that he scored when we beat Poland in my second match as the England manager. He is the sort of player who can change a game like that." Taylor was not above lampooning himself, either. He was pleased that Lee, his first signing last summer, scored the winning goal, taken well from a header by Hazzon. "But I always said I preferred turnips first, pineapples second," he added with the realisation of one who knows that barbed remarks belong to his past and that jokes about players' hairstyles will always find a receptive audience. Noel-Williams gave Watford the lead after 35 minutes, turning in a cross from Hude. All that was missing was the presence of Sir Elton John, Watford's great benefactor, who was in Atlanta. By the time he caught up with the time difference, Taylor was already contemplating how to ask him for money to ensure that never again do they return to the second division. FULHAM (4-4-2): M Taylor - M Lawrence, C Coleman, M Blake, R Buxwell - W Collins, P Bracewell, N Smith (sub: P Trokora, 78th), P Beardsley - P Moody, P Peschisoldo (sub: J Thorne, 80).

WATFORD (3-5-2): A Chamberlain - K Miller, S Palmer (sub: N Gibbs, 28), T Murray - D Binsley, A Hagan, R Johnston, M Hude, P Kennedy - J Lee, G Noel-Williams (sub: P Robinson, 68). Referee: W Burns. MILLER, left, and PESCHISOLDI have an eye on possession

Rovers look to future after second title success

Forest Green Rovers.....2 Bath City.....0 By WALTER GAMMIE CHAMPIONS of the southern division last season, Forest Green Rovers on Saturday carried off the Dr Martens premier division title, setting up the kill by beating Merthyr Tydfil, their tenacious rivals, 3-1 on Wednesday night and finishing the job with victory over Bath City before a crowd of 1,678 at The Lawn. To underline the achievement, one need merely consider that Vauxhall Conference football will next season be played in a Gloucestershire village of 400 souls that sits on a hill above Nailsworth. "I felt that if we were going to win the league this was the year we were going to do it," Frank Grogan, the manager, said. "Teams weren't used to us and our different style of play. I don't want to patronise my players but we over-achieved. We milked every point we could from every game. There is a great spirit. The players stick together on and off the pitch. Nobody leaves after training without sharing a drink - they get fined if they do!" Grogan has given old legs a new lease of life as clearly seen in Gary Smart, 36, his captain, who had missed the tail end of Bath's promotion-winning campaign to the Conference in 1999-00 with a broken leg. Smart was in the thick of the action. He settled fraying nerves by seizing on the rebound from a shot by Hunt to lash in Rovers' opening goal in the 34th minute. He then played a superb pass through the defence for Alex Sykes to touch in the second in the 74th minute. "No disrespect to Bath," Smart said, "but the last two years have been my most enjoyable." It was then off to join a party that nobody was in danger of skipping. FOREST GREEN ROVERS (3-4-1-2): J Smart - C Honor, M Coupe, G Dicks - S Winter, P McLoughlin (sub: M Kilgour, 66th), T Callan - A Sales (sub: T Jackson, 88) - G Smart (sub: T Jones, 84) - P Hunt, M Helem.

Relieved Waddle escapes with his pride still intact

Burnley.....2 Plymouth Argyle.....1 By NICK SZCZEPANIK ALL the breathless excitement at a packed Turf Moor on Saturday could have been in vain, of course, if Brentford had pressed home their man advantage against Bristol Rovers, the two headed goals by Andy Cooke that won this game would not have kept Burnley in the Nationwide League second division. The Plymouth Argyle reply, headed in at close range by Mark Saunders between Cooke's two strikes, would not have guaranteed a nailbiting finish, as the visitors strove for a late equaliser to keep them up and send Burnley down instead. Shots against the crossbar by Weller and Little and saves by Sheffield and Woods would have been forgotten. In the end, though, it turned out well for the home side and Chris Waddle, their player-manager, who took over in the

Torquay faithful endure full gamut of emotions

Leyton Orient.....2 Torquay United.....1 By BILL EDGAR AN EXHAUSTING and agonising day for Helen Chamberlain, television presenter and Torquay United supporter, reached its climax when she witnessed a moment that will go down in Devon's sporting folklore. After rising at 4am to co-anchor a four-hour football show for Sky Television, she had gone to Brisbane Road to watch her team try to gain the point that would clinch promotion to the Nationwide League second division. Standing in the front row, she had been almost within touching distance of Paul Gibbs, her boyfriend and Torquay's left back, when he sent over a cross that Andy MacFarlane slotted home to reduce Leyton Orient's lead to 2-1 with 12 minutes left. Then, seven minutes into stoppage time, with the referee's watch apparently having stopped,

Relieved Waddle escapes with his pride still intact

summer with high hopes of bringing his version of the Beautiful Game to Burnley. He ended up on Saturday a hero of sorts simply for pulling them back from the brink of a relegation to which he himself had led them. "In my eyes, it's not a success," he admitted. "If we'd finished ninth or tenth, or just missed the play-offs, you'd think it's dead easy, your job, but it isn't. It's been hard." Waddle's first season in management started badly - Burnley did not win a league game until October 11 - but team changes, mostly promotions from the reserves and youth team, have enabled him to salvage the club's position as well as his own pride, which one senses has been hurt by those pleased to see a big name coming to grief. "The so-called experts have never seen us play," he said. "They don't know what happens behind the scenes. On our form, in the second half of the season, we wouldn't be far from the play-offs, but we've been playing catch-up. We have a team I think will finish in the top half next year and young players with a lot of talent. I've felt all right and my philosophy hasn't changed." Whether or not Waddle will be allowed to steer Burnley onward depends, he said, on "the people in charge", although who those people will be depends, in turn, on the outcome of takeover talks with not one but two consortiums. Spare a thought for Plymouth, whose manager, Mick Jones, knows all about distractions from behind the scenes. "I believe we deserved a draw today," he said. "When you see players distraught and in tears, you can't pick them up. I'll probably feel it more tomorrow." Spare a thought, too, for Barry Conlon, on loan to Argyle from Manchester City. Out of the frying pan...

UPS AND DOWNS NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Champions: Watford. Promoted: Bristol City. Play-offs: Fulham v Grimsby (first leg May 8, second leg May 13); Bristol City v Northampton (first leg May 10, second leg May 13); Scarborough v Torquay (first leg May 10, second leg May 13). Third division: Champions: Notts County. Promoted: Plymouth. Play-offs: Barnet v Colchester (first leg May 10, second leg May 13); Scarborough v Torquay (first leg May 10, second leg May 13). Relegated: Doncaster

LEYTON ORIENT (3-5-2): C MacFarlane - D Smith, S Clark, M Warren - M Joseph, R Joseph, M Ling, A Kipling, J Harris (sub: J Baker, 77th) - C Maguire (sub: D Morrison, 80), C Simpson (sub: P Raynor, 88). TORQUAY UNITED (3-5-2): K Vessey - A Gurney, J Gifford, A Watson, J Richardson, P Gibbs - S McCall (sub: A Beesau, 65), G Clayton, K Hill (sub: C Bitter, 65) - R Jack, A MacFarlane. Referee: A Leake.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table with columns for team names and league positions. Includes teams like Bolton, Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham, Wimbledon, Newcastle, Coventry, Leicester, Birmingham, Bradford, Huddersfield, Ipswich, Middlesbrough, QPR, Reading, Stockport, Stoke, Swindon, Tranmere, West Brom, Bristol Rovers, Burnley, Chesterfield, Fulham, Gillingham, Grimsby, Luton, Millwall, Preston, Southend, Charlton, Exeter, Chester, Doncaster, Dieter, Hull, Leyton Orient, Lincoln, Mansfield, Notts County, Peterborough, Rochdale, Scunthorpe, Shrewsbury, and Wolves.

OVERSEAS

Table showing international football results and league tables for various countries including Italy, Belgium, Germany, France, and Portugal.

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP logo and branding.

BELL'S PREMIER DIVISION table showing league positions and statistics for the top division.

BELL'S SECOND DIVISION table showing league positions and statistics for the second division.

BELL'S THIRD DIVISION table showing league positions and statistics for the third division.

GOALSCORERS table listing players and their goals in the Premier Division.



Marco Simone, of Paris Saint-Germain, scores the winning goal in the French Cup final against Lens on Saturday. PSG won 2-1 to complete a cup double

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES section containing various league tables for non-league football and national leagues.

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUES section containing league tables for various football leagues.

BELL'S PREMIER DIVISION table showing league positions and statistics for the top division.

BELL'S SECOND DIVISION table showing league positions and statistics for the second division.

BELL'S THIRD DIVISION table showing league positions and statistics for the third division.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page for Nationwide Football Leagues, featuring the text 'Stand if you on way' and 'The Times' logo.

Eagles fly in the face of modern obsession

Everything was against it. A great occasion can take a dull and one-sided match in its stride, as countless FA Cup Finals have shown us, but the trouble is that rugby league's Challenge Cup final is no longer a great occasion. More of your pre-season friendly, a fossil, miraculously preserved intact from the deep past, fascinating enough for sporting palaeontologists but hardly relevant to the determined modernists of the JJB Super League.

Rugby league is the sport that believed its own manager-speak: "The league's the thing. The cup is just a distraction. I'd swap the glory for maximum points in the next league game."

This sort of talk means that the FA Cup Final has become a mildly despised consolation prize, but it is worse with the Challenge Cup final. It is just a warm-up for the summer-long Super League. The entire rhythm of the sport changed when rugby league linked up with BSkyB and abandoned its wintry traditions. The Challenge Cup final was once a grand end-of-term festival: now it is rather like those breakfast snacks that they keep advertising, something to gobble up on your way to something important.



SIMON BARNES



PROGRAMME NOTES

outing to Newmarket to watch the latest Horse of the Century ready to switch on the video, prepared for a dreary, one-sided match. Still, by the second half, Wigan would be playing like Harlem Globetrotters and I would cheer in delight for my Wigan genes.

But a pity, all the same, I reflected, as I made my way home, having witnessed the scattering of the ashes of the hopes of the Horse of the Century, a pity that the game's best public occasion — for a Saturday afternoon audience of terrestrial television brings in numbers out of all proportion to the audience on Sky — has become such a damp squib.

Mimi would say she was feeling an awful lot better and why don't we all go out for a drink?

Sheffield Eagles played this one rather like Mimi. They were supposed to be doomed for the earliest of early graves, but, instead, they perked up and went out for a drink. It was the afternoon that the Washington Towers beat the Harlem Globetrotters, a wonderful afternoon of underdogery, the very stuff of sport — which made it wonderful television. You simply can't spoil stuff that good. All you have to do is let the sport happen, keep the ball in the middle of the screen and have the commentator identify the players.

And, to its credit, the BBC managed, on the whole, to keep the director's gimmicks to the minimum. Ray French, the commentator, is too old a hand to go on about how much we are enjoying ourselves, a trick that drives you mad with Sky's Super League coverage. Sky's other great trick is to bring us action replays when the ball is live. Now the BBC has followed: it is a gimmick that is fast becoming standard. See, that's what happened two minutes ago and ooh, I say, look where the ball is now, I wonder how it got there, it's a try, isn't it?

The BBC did not go mad with this gimmick on Saturday, but it should not use it at all, ever. The live ball should be sacred and to cut away from it, even for a second — oh look, there's a man in a suit looking worried — should be regarded as heresy.

"They slogged it out in the knowledge that, whoever won, they'd both be in the lion's tum by teatime"

Stand oop if you're on your way down

A warm Britannia welcome was what they called it in the programme. "This afternoon we give a warm Britannia welcome to Manchester City, who like ourselves desperately need to win today, or else!" It was the larkly exclamation mark that was so touching. "Or else!" didn't seem quite to cover one's actual expectations of the game: didn't fit with the concept of "Crunch Sunday" or with the "bloodbath" that had also been mentioned confidently by my colleagues.

LYNNE TRUSS



Staying overnight in Stoke on Saturday, I couldn't help noticing portents of gloom. Instead of sweets at the checkout in Food Giant, they had razor-blades. Lots of razor-blades. "You can't miss the Britannia Stadium, it's next to the incinerator," I was told. A nice cheerful spot, then, on which to stage a pyrrhic battle like this one.

The permutations for the game yesterday were so complicated that I started wishing I'd paid more attention to the higher maths bits in *Good Will Hunting*. If Man City won, they might still go down; if Stoke City won, they might go down. Alternatively, if they drew, they might both stay up. And if Man City lost or Stoke lost, and Portsmouth lost, and Belinda's eyes are bright green but she does not like oranges, then QED, we all live on a yellow submarine.



A Manchester City supporter is inconsolable after discovering that, despite winning 5-2, his team was going down. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk Correspondence should include address and postcode

Sharing TV football

From the Controller of BBC Sport

Sir, I am sure football fans everywhere will be impressed by the superstitious and public-spirited letter from David Elstein (Sports Letters, April 27) asking that the BBC share its live television rights to Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup final on May 13.

Opinion, please

From Mr Jeremy Gomm

Sir, I share Michael Henderson's admiration for Stuart Hall's trenchant post-match allegories on Radio 5 Live (April 25). Mr Henderson's own reports are littered with opinions, which is why I always seek out his byline in your sports pages. I have wondered at the brass neck of returning to a cricket ground whose home team will be reeling from the latest Henderson onslaught.

Eccentric timings in the London Marathon

From Mr Neville Benbow

Sir, I was perplexed by one of the statistics in the London Marathon listings published today (April 28).

Velcro shirts

From Mr Ian Craggs

Sir, May I thank Mr Boyce (April 27) for exposing the football shirt loophole. I now fully expect large football clubs to develop a new type of Velcro three times a season.

Making rugby attractive

From Mr Peter Deakin

Sir, In reply to Simon Barnes's article (April 20), the recent titanic clash between second placed Saracens and the Premiership leaders, Newcastle, was indeed a landmark sporting event. How many times this century has a fledgling professional sport attracted 20,000 people on a rainy Sunday afternoon?

Fixtures jam

From Mr William Woodward

Sir, Dick Curtis (April 27) rightly draws attention to the all too usual concertina effect on matches in rugby union as the end of the season approaches. Hopefully the current discussions between the Allied Dunbar Premiership clubs and the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will, at least in part, resolve this.

This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow Newcastle take on Leicester needing a win to maintain the pressure on Saracens at the top of rugby union's Allied Dunbar Premiership. Wednesday After Atherton: England name the man who will lead England into the Test series against South Africa this summer. Thursday Brian Glanville reports from Paris on the all-Italian Uefa Cup final between Lazio and Internazionale, featuring Ronaldo (above). Saturday Football Saturday: the final Premiership weekend, Oliver Holt, Frank Leboeuf on Chelsea's Cup Winners' Cup prospects, and Danny Baker.

Unquenchable spirit helps Sheffield to defy odds and lift Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Eagles take flight on the back of self-belief

HIS team's faith had moved a mountain. Wembley had virtually been left to the pigeons when Paul Broadbent, who could not draw himself away, suffered the only pang of doubt. He reached across the perimeter barrier and handed the Silk Cut Challenge Cup trophy to a woman in a wheelchair, whose wonderment reminded the Sheffield Eagles captain that this was not dreamland.



BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

public fails to respond now, maybe the Eagles should find another nest after 14 years. "Surely, they'll wake up," Tim Adams, the club's still beaming chairman, said. "We've showed we're a sporting force. Who knows, maybe the council will invite us now for tea and sandwiches."



Betts, the Wigan forward, grimaces in the tackle as the Sheffield defence stands firm at Wembley. Photographs: Marc Aspland

able spirit. In the tunnel beforehand, the Wigan players were mystified by the Eagles' cries of "98" — the belief that this was their year — although as successfully as Kear had appealed to their hearts, it was the way they played with their heads that won them the game.

Aston joined the club in 1986 and, like Broadbent, Laughon and Carr, has ridden out many more bad times than good ones. As loyal clubmen, they most deserved their day in the sun, yet the recently arrived Dave Watson, who denied Connolly, Robinson and Smith in a breathless tackling stint, embodied Sheffield's defiance.

Wigan's defence had looked impenetrable all season, but Moore playing the ball back to no one preceded the second Sheffield try by Crowther. When Turner burrowed underneath three would-be tacklers and Aston added a second conversion to an earlier dropped goal, even at 17-2, the sense that Wigan would surely not fall gathered momentum



Eagles players huddle together to urge each other on to victory

SAILING

Silk Cut making a charge for third

FROM EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN ANNAPOLIS

THE crew on Silk Cut, of Great Britain, are seeking a fast passage across the Atlantic on the penultimate stage of the Whitbread Round the World Race, which started from here yesterday, and the chance to complete unfinished business in the strong conditions in which they excel.

GOLF: OLAZABAL MISSES CHANCE TO OVERTAKE ELS IN ORDER OF MERIT

Sjoland holds firm for first win

PATRIK SJOLAND showed typical Swedish powers of grit and adhesion in surviving a searching examination by José María Olazábal to claim his maiden PGA European Tour success in the Italian Open here yesterday. Sjoland, who had a closing 66 for a total of 195, 21 under par, to win 81.853, had only one bogey in the 54 holes of this rain-shortened tournament: nobody deserved victory more.

FROM MEL WEBB IN CASTELCONTURBIA, ITALY tering last nine holes to force himself into a tie with Olazábal for second place, three strokes behind Sjoland and two ahead of Thomas Bjorn, the in-form Dane. The solitary bogey in Olazábal's second 65 of the day made a huge difference, leaving him 112.000 short of Els.

man on the verge of his first big victory had any right to be. Olazábal paid him a characteristically handsome tribute. "He has no fear," he said. "We were all playing for second place out there. When I three-putted the 14th for bogey it was over."



Bjorn, who was fourth, plays his approach to the 3rd green

a combined 22 under par for the final round. At the start, Haeggman would probably have been happy enough with a position in the lower reaches of the top ten and, although he reached the turn in three under par, he still cannot have hoped for much more. Fireworks then ensued, an eagle and four birdies bringing him home in 29 for a round of 63.

Williams answers red alert

CRAIG WILLIAMS, 19, the Wales international from Creigiau Golf Club outside Cardiff, showed that the Red course at the Berkshire Golf Club could be mastered in the difficult conditions that prevailed in the Berkshire Trophy yesterday. In what he will regard as one of the best nine holes he has ever played, Williams took only 31 strokes for the outward half in his third round of the 72-hole competition.

BY JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT ied the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 8th and 9th and, at that point, a remarkable score looked to be on the cards. Just as suddenly as the imp of inspiration had arrived, however, it disappeared.

though somewhat disappointing after such a good start, put him on 217, four strokes behind Mark Hilton, the leader after 54 holes. This was the 21st and last Berkshire Trophy conducted under the benevolent eye of Peter Clarke, who has been secretary at this club since 1977.

SCHOOLS SPORT

Competition makes inner-city comeback

DISCREDITED by the aggressive political correctness of the 1980s, competitive sport in state schools has declined alarmingly in the inner cities over the past ten to 15 years. However, now that we are all encouraged to give our emaciated, full expression, organisations of competitive sport for children is being revived.

HOCKEY

England get better of cup rivals

ENGLAND'S successful build-up to the World Cup finals in Utrecht later this month continued when they beat Holland for the first time in seven years at the Froyckey Stadium in the Dutch city on Saturday.

HOCKEY

Notton breakthrough seals Surrey triumph

A GOAL by Gary Notton with less than 30 seconds to go sealed a 1-0 victory for Surrey over Cheshire, the holders, in the A Division final of the county championship at Milton Keynes yesterday. Surrey had last won the title in 1996.

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Choice determines weather to fish

Brian Clarke explains how April's showers have whetted his appetite for angling

Arthur Ransome once wrote that "the pleasures of fishing are chiefly to be found in rivers, lakes and tackle shops, and of the three, the last are least affected by the weather".

Last month, I took my own angling pleasures in the shops, swishing rods that I had no intention of buying, twiddling reels that were far beyond my pocket, poring over cases of flies and studying the odd one as though it were a cut gem. I bought a few hooks and fished, Ransome-style, by proxy. The wet, windy month that has just passed was the first April in years that I did not go to the water. I fear I am becoming a fair-weather fisherman.

It took a long time for the truth to sink in, but eventually it did. The pleasures of getting soaked to the skin and chilled to the bone are, like the pleasures of opposition for politicians, much exaggerated. The days when I would dash to the water whatever the forecast have long gone. The great fish hunger has eased. These days it is the challenge of the water when things are happening — especially the challenge of difficult fish that are feeding near the surface — that pulls my string.

I know what has prompted the change. It is not that I have fished a bit and have a few under my belt. It is something else. It is increased availability and choice.

Like most anglers I have, over the years, had to take my fishing when I could. Thanks first to school and then to work, weekends and holidays glowed like sunlit uplands around limited horizons. Each fishing minute was known, yearned-for and consumed.

Then, perversely, I made matters worse. In an attempt to extract every ounce of pleasure from what fishing time I could organise, I began to take season rods at places offering exceptional sport. I paid in two ways. One was through the nose, something all trout anglers understand, the other was through restriction: my fee bought me access for one fixed day or session each week.

The realisation that if I missed this booked day one week then I was doomed to a fishless fortnight was an ad-

ded incentive to go whatever the forecast. It was Saturday or Sunday or Wednesday evening. It was my time. Go.

Then the transformation. I engineered a greater flexibility in my work. I sought and joined a couple of small clubs that had no time restrictions. The rules were fish when you want, seven days a week if you like. Clubs run for mem-

bers can do that. Commercial fisheries, with their burdensome overheads and need to make a profit, cannot.

The sudden plenty took away all pressure. If it was a Saturday or a Sunday or a Wednesday evening, so what? There is this work to be done, that obligation to so-and-so, the garden reproaches. I'll go tomorrow — or maybe Thursday if my pal can get away as well.

So now it is not time that usually decides when I fish, but a package of things, high among them the weather. I do not mean I want good fishing weather before I will go: I just want pleasant, nice-to-be-out-in weather. Blue skies and fluffy white clouds are perfect. But a gale? Count me out. Rain? Forget it. Two things have happened as a result. One has been that I fish less now, no less intently if the fish are moving and certainly no less enjoyably, but simply for fewer days and fewer hours. The most expensive sport that I have ever enjoyed gave me unlimited fishing on a prime beat of a superb river. Over the years, as the novelty wore off, the number of times I went each season fell steadily. Some seasons I went a dozen times or fewer. One year, I made just nine trips. When, in an idle moment, I divided nine into the annual rod fee, even the print in my chequebook went white.

When I'm on the bank I fish less as well. I am slower to tackle up. I take longer over lunch. I am content, much of the time, to sit with my friends talking softly of this or that, or to enjoy the frenzied concentration of someone casting to a ring that they think was made by a trout, but which I know was made by a dabchick.

The second thing flexibility has given me has a down side. Because I can choose when I go, I do not often have to cope with the problems bad weather turns up. Rivers are not much of a problem, psychologically speaking, for whatever the weather, the fish are never far away, even if they are not showing.

On a big lake, however, when a cold wind is blowing and the rain is slanting down, fishing can not only be uncomfortable but the trout can be miles away. Finding them, coping and experimenting is the name of that game. Summoning willpower and determination are the keys.

So, in the long term, fair-weather fishing does not help because it softens the steel and blunts the edge. That is the problem. Some day soon I must lie under a tree, pull my hat over my eyes and worry about it.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.



Bank holiday: a trout angler enjoys his session in the sunshine

6 I fear I am becoming a fair-weather fisherman

MOTOR RALLYING

Burns ignites push in pursuit of world title

By Kevin Eason

IT IS fast, twisting and bumpy, the sort of track that presents a spectacle for on-lookers but stretches drivers and cars to their limits. The Tour de Corse, which starts in Corsica today, will claim a high attrition rate of broken cars and exhausted drivers over the next three days, but the chances are that Richard Burns will be there at the end and, if his record holds, in the points, too.

Burns is Britain's best hope for the world championship this year, eclipsing even Colin McRae, the nation's only world champion so far in an event traditionally dominated by Scandinavian drivers and Japanese cars.

But the entry of the young Englishman has been electrifying: he lies second in the championship after five rallies. But over the end of last season and the start of this, he has put together an astonishing run of ten consecutive finishes, nine with points, the sort of consistency that separates champions from the rest.

"Maybe I am tempting fate by talking about my ability to finish," he said. "I don't know this rally so I am hoping it is not going to take me by surprise anywhere, though a lot of the course seems very tricky."

It is not just the natural hazards of gravel and steep, undulating tracks that face the drivers but also some unexpected challenges. Last year, Burns's team-mate, Tommi Makinen, was on the brink of leading when he crashed into a stray cow.

"That is some of the special ingredient of rallying," Burns said. "It is not a case of being on a circuit and then hoping for reliability in the car. We



Burns: consistency

have to deal with uncertainties we sometimes cannot legislate for."

It was that very uncertainty that first attracted Burns to rallying. As a 15-year-old, he sublimated his desire to drive by trying out a racing and rallying school. Circuit driving left him unimpressed, its lap-after-lap monotony a stark contrast to rally driving, which demands as much sorcery as skill.

He was soon racking up titles, culminating in 1993 when he became the youngest driver to take the British championship, seven months younger than McRae, who had won the year before.

It seemed that the career paths of the two would be inextricably linked when Burns was hired as a support driver for McRae with the Subaru team, which gave the Scot his world title.

But a move to Mitsubishi has allowed Burns, 29, from Oxford, to blossom to the extent that his team could face a dilemma if he continues this charge to the world championship. Makinen is the world champion and No 1 driver and team orders could have meant Burns having to move over to allow his team-mate through to pursue another championship.

But with Burns two points ahead of Makinen — who is in fourth place with McRae — Mitsubishi Ralliart executives might fancy Burns as a better bet as the season develops, especially since he won the prestigious Safari Rally earlier in the year.

Getting it right has proved a Burns speciality so far this season and a win in Corsica would put the Briton ahead of some of the biggest names in rallying: Carlos Sainz, Juha Kankkunen and Didier Auriol, as well as Makinen and McRae.

He will not be overawed, though. After a long day exploring the Corsican countryside, Burns eschewed the offer of a cooling beer and to put his feet up. Instead, he pulled on the trainers and went for a long, mind-clearing jog.

"There is no point in being overawed," he said. "It is a long run to the world championship and we have a long way to go. The objective is to finish, and finish with points."

SPEEDWAY

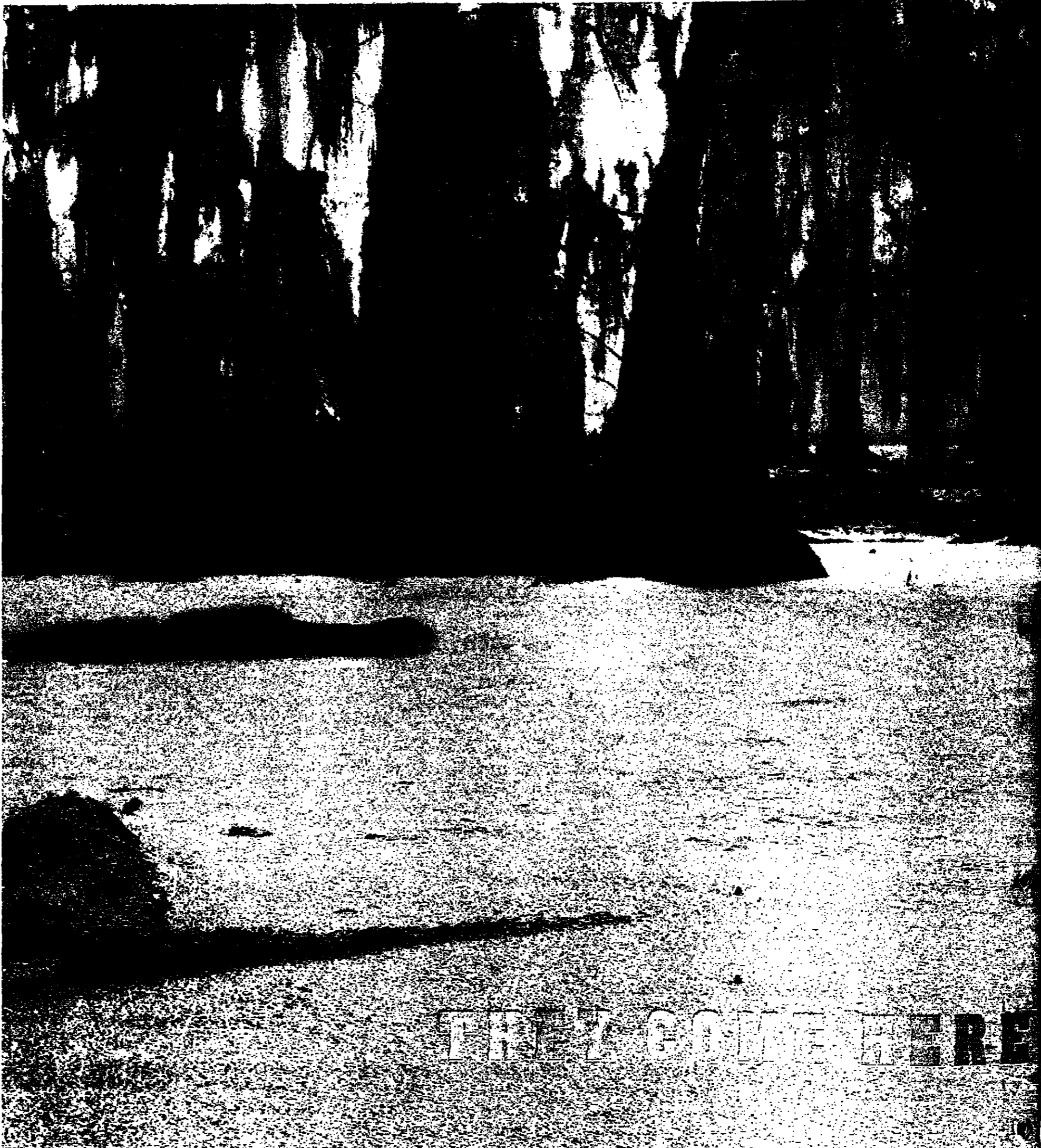
Havelock withdraws from England team

GARY HAVELOCK, of Eastbourne, has refused to ride for England after being stripped of the team captaincy by Dave Jessup, the national team manager. Havelock, Great Britain's last individual world champion, in 1992, reacted angrily after being told that he would be replaced because he was not a guaranteed selection for the international side.

"I'm not going to ride for England again while Jessup is the manager," he said in a

statement. "I feel as if someone has stolen one of my most treasured possessions. I've had the captaincy taken away from me without so much as a cheers or thank you for my services. If that's loyalty, then I don't want to be part of the national team any more."

Jessup has made Chris Louis, whose father, John Louis, was the previous England manager, the captain for the series against Australia this summer.



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SNOOKER: LACKLUSTRE DOHERTY OUTPLAYED IN EARLY STAGES OF FINAL

Higgins seizes initiative

By Phil Yates

JOHN HIGGINS took a significant stride towards becoming world champion and world No 1 by establishing a 6-2 lead over Ken Doherty, the title-holder, after the first session of the best-of-35-frame final at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, yesterday.

Higgins exhibited such self-assurance in the latter stages of the session that it was easy to forget that so much hung on the outcome. Early on, though, he was understandably tentative and squandered a clear-cut opportunity to steal the opening frame by over-cutting a routine yellow off its spot with the other colours at his mercy.

Those who thought that the occasion might overwhelm Higgins were soon proved wrong as he outscored a strangely lacklustre Doherty 350-28 over the course of the next four frames, compiling breaks of 53, 71, 66 and 43 in the process.

The loss of the sixth was another painful blow for Doherty. Trailing 55-0, he embarked on a potential clearance but, after marginally over-screwing the cue-ball in potting the yellow, jawed the green using the rest.

Higgins cleared up for 5-1 before a run of 130 swiftly propelled him into a 6-1 advantage. It was his tenth century break of the championship. Only Stephen Hendry,

with 12 in 1995 and 11 in 1996, has constructed more in a single championship. It was also the 24th hundred break from Higgins this season, placing him top of that statistical category.

An 89 break, launched by a speculative plant to a middle pocket, enabled Doherty to account for the closing frame of the afternoon but Higgins remained firmly in command.

Higgins had also been marginally the more impressive of the pair in completing a 17-9 victory over Ronnie O'Sullivan in the semi-finals on Saturday: Doherty's most appealing quality in beating Mark Williams 17-14 was a refusal to drop his head in periods of adversity.

Doherty was unable to rely on his usual fluency but that did not prevent him tenaciously recovering from 12-8 and 13-11 adrift. In so doing, Doherty became the only player since Joe Johnson in 1987 to return to the final 12 months after capturing the game's most coveted title for the first time.

With Higgins under the added pressure of being in a position to supplant Hendry as world No 1 after eight years of uninterrupted occupation, it was only natural that concerns were raised surrounding

his ability to shoulder such an immense burden in the sport's most important single match.

After all, Higgins played superbly to reach the final of the Grand Prix in October, only to lose 9-6 to Dominic Dale, the world No 54, and was also beaten 9-5 by Paul Hunter, ranked 43rd in the world.

SCORES

SEMI-FINALS: K Doherty (1st) bt M Williams (17-14). Frame scores (Doherty first): 69-2, 67-7, 80-52, 38-65, 54-47, 10-52, 71-54, 73-69, 54-55, 115-2, 0-110, 49-53, 30-1, 40-73, 53-57, 35-62, 21-91, 1-79, 38-64, 38-74, 74-51, 78-4, 63-60, 41-65, 82-38, 54-52, 10-55, 71-30, 62-7, 73-6, 79-0. J Higgins (2nd) bt R O'Sullivan (1st) 17-9. Frame scores (Higgins first): 0-55, 50-62, 17-9, 104-0, 102-21, 0-14, 109-32, 44-57, 69-54, 72-49, 104-0, 102-21, 0-14, 109-32, 44-57, 69-54, 70-51, 75-12, 79-38, 84-0, 132-0, 122-1, 66-1, 64-65, 29-68, 85-9, 38-64, 59-64, 79-55, 68-66, 46-75, 69-0, 118-9.

FINAL: Higgins leads Doherty 6-2. Frame scores (Higgins first): 54-73, 80-20, 86-7, 71-1, 113-0, 73-52, 130-0, 0-89.

in the Regal Welsh Open final three months ago.

Yet, in dispatching O'Sullivan so comfortably, Higgins, armed with the experience gained from winning eight world-ranking tournaments during his short career, showed the unflappable qualities so necessary to triumph at the Crucible. Over the course of the previous four rounds, the form

displayed by Higgins was of an appreciably higher standard than that of the incumbent champion.

Higgins leads Doherty 4-2 in head-to-head meetings and carries no psychological scars, although Doherty did defeat him 13-9 in the quarter-finals of the championship last year. Then, however, Higgins's mind was in turmoil as a result of cue problems that were continuing to beset him.

"I don't want to sound big-headed but I honestly believe I would already have been world No 1 if my cue hadn't been such a headache," Higgins said. The Scot had been forced to change equipment in January 1997 when his original cue became unusable through wear and tear.

The European Open title was the solitary fruit of Higgins's labours last season. During the 1997-98 campaign, he has won the German Open, Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge — beating Doherty in the semi-finals — and most satisfyingly, the British Open, thanks to a 9-8 victory over Hendry in an engrossing final.

It is those successes, appearances in four other finals and two semi-finals that have laid a bedrock of confidence that Doherty, who only lifted a trophy at the relatively low-key Malta Grand Prix, does not possess.



Higgins lines up a pot during the first session of the world championship final against Doherty

SPORT IN BRIEF

Hingis clinches first European clay title

TENNIS: After a sluggish opening set, Martina Hingis and Jana Novotna produced some remarkable tennis in the final of the Intersport Ladies Grand Prix in Hamburg yesterday (Alix Ramsay writes). Hingis eventually won her first European clay-court title 6-3, 7-5. After an exchange of breaks in the second set and the score at 3-2, the skies darkened ominously and officials decided to close the arena roof. That was the cue for dramatic improvement in the play. Invariably, however, the difference between the two players came down to the same thing — even playing at full stretch and way out of court, Hingis could get the ball back, while Novotna, having run herself into the ground to set up the winning chance, would land the ball on the wrong side of the line. "Even when I'm doing something right Martina is able to raise her game," Novotna said.

Criville holds off Doohan

MOTORCYCLING: Alex Criville, riding a Honda, held off a strong challenge from Michael Doohan to delight a 150,000-strong home crowd and win the Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez yesterday. Criville slipped past Doohan with 17 of the 27 laps left. On the final lap Doohan closed to within inches but could not find a way past. Criville is now second in the world championship, six points behind Max Biaggi, who finished third. "It is just fantastic to win for the second time in a row in front of my fans," Criville said.

Faldo discards putter

GOLF: Nick Faldo ditched his putter in favour of a nine-iron in the final round of the Macau Open in an attempt to regain his form. Faldo, flown in along with Vijay Singh to raise the appeal of the event, finished seven shots behind the winner, Satoshi Oide, of Japan, at six over par. However, he did improve with the switch of clubs, as he putted with the lofted iron on six greens and sank three birdie putts. "It made me realise that my putter is not in sync with me," Faldo said. "At least that's something positive. I'll throw it away."

Enqvist topples Agassi

TENNIS: Thomas Enqvist, of Sweden, fought back to defeat Andre Agassi (right) 6-7, 7-6, 6-3 in the final of the BMW Open in Munich. Enqvist, the world No 21 who was seeded No 7, recovered during a third set in which the first four games went against service. "I played extremely well," Enqvist said. "I took a lot of chances and went for shots. I had a good day. I'm very happy."



Monarchs dethroned

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Despite leading 17-3 and 24-13, the England Monarchs suffered their fourth defeat in five NFL Europe games when they were beaten 25-24 by Amsterdam Admirals in Holland on Saturday (Richard Wetherell writes). A 22-yard touchdown reception by Jason Shelley with 2min 40sec remaining gave Amsterdam victory. The game had started brightly for the Monarchs and they took a 10-0 lead early in the second quarter.

Foster injured at party

ROWING: Tim Foster, the No 3 in the British World Cup four with Matthew Pinsent, Steve Redgrave and James Cracknell, is likely to be out of action for six weeks after damaging tendons in his hand at a party in Oxford on Saturday (Mike Rosewall writes). It appears that Foster's hand went through a window. Jürgen Grobler, the national coach, said: "This could mean that Foster misses two World Cups. It makes it difficult for us."

Brite performance

CYCLING: Team Brite riders filled the first five places in the 11.75-mile time-trial stage of the Travelwise Tour of Lancashire yesterday (Peter Bryan writes). True, Colin Sturgess, who was fifth-fastest, was a temporary guest rider for Adidas-SciCon, but Brite's domination was complete, with Rob Hayles winning the stage by 10sec from Matthew Illingworth in 22min 53sec. Jon Clay was third.

Badminton to go ahead

EQUESTRIANISM: The Badminton horse trials, Britain's premier three-day event, have been given the go-ahead for the scheduled start on Thursday after a detailed course inspection. Hue Thomas, the Badminton director, anxious to allay fears that heavy rain has put the event in jeopardy, said: "There have been a number of rumours that the trials are being cancelled. This is completely untrue."

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Reputations rise and fall as King Of Kings eclipses odds-on favourite in 2,000 Guineas

Official view puts accent on substance before style

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE official handicappers on either side of the Irish Sea yesterday ran their slide rules over King Of Kings' majestic victory in the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on Saturday — but admitted their conclusions owe more to the theory concerning lies, damned lies and statistics.

Attempting to place a classic winner into an historical pecking order is never easy and an assessor can gauge the performance of a horse only by the opposition it has beaten, rather than by the style of the victory. By the terms of handicapping, King Of Kings' success appears nothing out of the ordinary.

The Aidan O'Brien-trained colt, who finished 1½ lengths ahead of Lend A Hand with threequarters of a length back to the fast-finishing Border Arrow in third, is likely to receive an official rating of 121 or 122 — 2lb below that accorded to Entrepreneur last year and Mark Of Esteem 12 months earlier.

However, Dominic Gardner-Hill, the British Horseracing Board handicapper, stressed that the bare rating probably does not begin to tell the whole story. Having spoken to his Irish opposite number, Ciaran Kennelly, he said: "It is difficult to get the performance very high from the horses he has beaten. The first ten home were covered by only eight lengths."

"But what I don't want to do is knock King Of Kings. He won first time out and has the season ahead of him. It could be he is a top-class racehorse. Mr O'Brien doesn't get these things wrong, as we are beginning to learn. If he says the horse is top class, I believe

him. He is an outstanding prospect but on the day the performance means he cannot be quantified as an outstanding Guineas winner."

The style of his victory, which offered a glimpse of the sensational work King Of Kings has produced on the Ballydoyle gallops, suggests the official acclamation of his talents will follow in due course. "He would have won a five-furlong maiden after doing his first canter. He is a pure natural," O'Brien said.

The quality of O'Brien's string means Ireland's young training genius is able to gain a precise insight into the ability of his best horses and in a recent workout King Of Kings achieved a rating of 138. Even allowing for the differences between Ballydoyle handicapping and that of the official assessors, it puts King Of Kings close to the level achieved by the mighty Dancing Brave.

Where King Of Kings will reappear will not be determined for a week or so. The Irish 2,000 Guineas remains favourite but, significantly, O'Brien would not rule out a crack at the Derby yesterday. After flying back to Ireland on Saturday night before returning to Newmarket, O'Brien said: "It will be a week before we make any decision. The Irish 2,000 Guineas looks the most likely option, but the spacing of the races means the Derby looks okay."

The odds-on Xaar, under pressure half a mile out, never looked like troubling the winner. However, possibly the most significant performance for the future was that of Border Arrow, now 5-1 favourite for the Derby.



King Of Kings produces a telling burst of acceleration to take the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket on Saturday from Lend A Hand, right. Xaar, far left, finished only fourth.

Xaar diverted from the path to greatness

PERHAPS you do not read *Horse & Hound*. The magazine carries a weekly feature called "Horse of a Lifetime", and practically all of them are the same. The incorrigible rogue, the irredeemably flawed, the horse that everyone said would never do anything... and yet, and yet...

And yet there was something about the animal, something in the way he moved, the way he held his head, the way he responded to his handler. Something that whispered that he would make a champion. And so it proved...

Stories of this kind happen every day at every level in every corner of the kingdom of horse. But then so do the other kind. These do not make such delightful reading. The horse that everyone said was irredeemably flawed, and was.

Time, money, and a fortune in hope were invested in the animal, but all to no avail. And so to Newmarket on Saturday. "We had to be careful," John Magnier said. "He is the sort whose head could have gone either way."

There is the famous Egyptian papyrus of the god Anubis weighing a soul against a feather. Thus do you weigh your horse's hopes: a feather too far and they are gone forever. Equine talent of any kind is finely balanced: extreme talent, of the kind required to win a classic, is balanced on the blade of a razor.

Magnier is the head of the Coolmore Stud-based team that owns King Of Kings, who won the 2,000 Guineas so triumphantly on Saturday. It is clear from first sight that there is something singular about the big, burly bay, I watched him in the pre-parade ring, loosening up for the coming exertions. And he was twice as tall as Xaar.

Xaar — remember him? — was the Horse of the Century, French-trained, small, sleek, laid-back. Walking round the pre-parade ring with soft, fine tread, utterly composed. If you had doubts about the temperament of your own horse, Xaar would frighten the life out of you. He was a picture of purposeful calm: the carefully-structured com-

Simon Barnes sees the latest 'horse of the century' fail to fulfil great expectations in classic circumstances

his life, he seemed to have come to England to give a solo equine performance of *Riverdance*.

A buck or two and a half-stand in the parade ring itself did not look like perfect big-match temperament either. He could have gone either way, Magnier said, in his training. And he could have gone either way on Saturday.

He could, but King Of Kings took the path less travelled by. The one that leads to greatness. Xaar, odds-on, had it all lost in the first furlong, a bumping, squeezing, headlong charge on ground far too soft for his comfort. Note: real champions act on any going against any opposition.

Xaar had looked all season as if he could only go one way: onwards and upwards. But like all potentially great horses — like all horses — he could have gone either way. And on Saturday, he went the wrong way.

And King Of Kings, galloping ever stronger, his head still high in the air, came thundering through. "You are almost afraid to commit yourself to saying that a horse is top

class," Magnier said. "A brilliant horse that could have gone either way, like — dare I say it? — like Nijinsky."

Er, what? Nijinsky won the 2,000 Guineas in 1970, also the Derby and the St Leger. One of the greatest ever, in short, King Of Kings is, as I write, considered unlikely to run in the Derby: more likely to stick at a mile. But we shall see.

The decision is largely up to his trainer, Aidan O'Brien, a man who is a dead ringer for Darbshire in the Jennings books. He is but 28, and those that deny him the word "genius" content themselves with a grudging "brilliant". This was his first English classic not one suspects, his last. Even without King Of Kings, his Derby hand is more than interesting.

As for Xaar, a chance to redeem himself in the Derby, perhaps. Perhaps, I had gone to Newmarket to seek a legend, and I came away with a good story. Sometimes a story becomes a legend: but only sometimes.

EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

THE TIMES

WIN A VIP TRIP TO THE WORLD CUP '98 FINAL

Courtesy of MasterCard

Plus, this week, win tickets to Brazil v Scotland including VIP tickets to the opening ceremony

Today, *The Times* has teamed up with Channel 4's *Planet Football*, and official World Cup '98 sponsor MasterCard, to give readers the chance to win the prize of a lifetime. In 12 weeks the lucky winner and a partner could be off to the spectacular Stade de France, Paris, to see the two best football teams in the world.

Every Monday for the next six weeks we will be printing special *Planet Football* tokens. Collect any three and attach them to the entry form which will be published in *The Times* on Monday, May 18 with a competition question.

Our overall winner, chosen at random from all correct entries on Friday June 19, will win two places on the exclusive MasterCard World Cup Train. The day begins with a welcome reception at Waterloo International departure lounge before guests board the special train for an early afternoon departure to Paris. Unlimited refreshments will be available. Our winners will then board the RER shuttle to the Stade de France courtesy of MasterCard. MasterCard is a long term soccer sponsor and has supported the 1990 and 1994 World Cups, Euro 92 and Euro 96 as well as the UEFA Champions League.

WIN VIP TICKETS FOR BRAZIL V SCOTLAND

PLUS, every week for the next six weeks, Channel 4 will be giving readers the chance to see the footballing nations featured in *Planet Football* in action. Each week's telephone competition will give you the chance to see games ranging from Scotland's titan tussle against the Brazilians at Saint-Denis, Paris, to England's crucial Group G match against Romania in Toulouse. All the prizes include scheduled BA flights, car hire and four-star accommodation.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win two VIP tickets to the opening ceremony and reserved seats for Brazil v Scotland, simply answer the following question and call our *PLANET FOOTBALL* hotline on 0891 300 361. Calls charged at 50p per minute. Rol 1550 122 361 calls charged at 58p per minute. How many times has Brazil won the World Cup?

The lines are open until midnight on Thursday, May 7. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries and contacted by telephone on Monday May 11. Rules: Entrants must be over 18. No cash alternative. Normal TNL competition rules apply.



PLANET FOOTBALL: Tomorrow - The Brazilians

In the run-up to the World Cup '98, Channel 4's *Planet Football* will complete its comprehensive analysis of France '98's chief protagonists. Tomorrow, the programme casts a critical eye on Brazil: four-times winners, pre-tournament favourites and reigning World Champions.

On tomorrow's show, at its new time of 11.05pm, Steve Cram introduces extended highlights of last week's exciting clash at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium, where Brazil took on bitter local rivals and co-qualifiers Argentina. There is also an exclusive interview with veteran of Brazil's 1970 World Cup winning team, Carlos Alberto.

Can Romario and FIFA World Footballer of the Year, Ronaldo, shoot Brazil to further World Cup glory? *Planet Football* will give you the latest form guide, size up their chances and provide a unique insight into the hopes and fears of a country where football is one of life's most important passions.



NEXT MONDAY: WIN TICKETS TO GERMANY v YUGOSLAVIA

CHANGING TIMES

Vaughan has treble at Llangainor's new course

SOME top riders were in action at the Llangainor's new course at Laleston on Saturday...

Racing is his new love, however, and he showed his prowess around the new track with a treble, including the first winner, Cairnmount...

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Table with columns for race number, name, and results.

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FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER 2.25 MACHIVILLI, 2.55 GILLAN COVE, 3.25 TOTALLY YOURS, 3.55 BLUEGLADE, 4.30 SOUNDS LIKE FUN, 5.05 GERRY'S PRIDE...

2.55 BEAUMONT HILL NOVICES CHASE (22,924: 2m 21 (10y) (9) ...

3.25 FITLENORTH CLAIMING HURDLE (22,320: 2m 21 (10y) (12) ...

2.20 NORTHANTS 86 NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (21,702: 2m (14 runners) ...

2.50 EYON NOVICES CHASE (23,026: 2m (10) ...

3.20 GREATWORTH HANDICAP HURDLE (22,805: 2m 5 (7) ...

3.50 WAPPEHAM HANDICAP CHASE (22,884: 2m 11 (10y) (5) ...

2.00 CLOWN WORKSHOP & BOUNCY CASTLE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (23,470: 2m (14 runners) ...

3.00 SOUTHWELL RACECOURSE FAMILY FUNDAY NOVICES CHASE (22,292: 2m 11 (10y) (9) ...

3.55 MADEHURST MAIDEN CHASE

4.30 DIANE OUGHTON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (23,850: 2m 30 (11) ...

5.05 FORTWELL HANDICAP HURDLE (22,553: 2m 21 (10y) (11) ...

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: P. Nicholls, 18 winners from 43 runners, 41.9%...

4.20 CLARKE FAMILY CONDITIONAL MARES NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (21,856: 3m (8) ...

4.50 TEALFLYER NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (ANNUOUS: £236: 2m (6) ...

5.20 THIRD TIME THE LUCKY STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (21,285: 2m (15) ...

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: S. G. 5 winners from 7 runners, 71.4%...

3.30 HARRY BISSILL MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (23,800: 2m 41 (10y) (13) ...

4.00 PUNCH & JUDY AND JAZZ BELL SELLING HURDLE (21,750: 2m (11) ...

Real Quiet takes honours

REAL QUIET captured the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on Saturday, giving trainer Bob Baffert his second consecutive Derby win...

The California-bred colt, nicknamed 'The Fish' because Baffert said he looks better from the side than head-on, won for the third time in 13 outings...

Real Quiet covered the ten furlongs in 2min 2.26sec, and beat Victory Gallop by half a length. The Baffert-trained Indian Charlie, the pre-race favourite, was 2 1/4 lengths away third...

LUDLOW

THUNDERER 2.30 GATEL, 3.05 SWING QUARTER, 3.35 PRIDEWOLF PICKER, 4.05 MRS EM, 4.35 MORSTOCK, 5.05 APRIL SEVENTH, 5.35 SECOND HELPING, 6.05 LORD STRICKLAND...

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.30 RED CROSS HURDLE (22,425: 2m (18 runners) ...

3.05 CLIVE PAVILION NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (23,412: 3m (16) ...

3.35 OLDFIELD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HURDLE (21,621: 2m (15) ...

4.05 HUGHES CATERERS 80TH BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE (22,931: 2m (15) ...

4.35 LUDLOW GOLF CLUB NOVICES CHASE (22,531: 2m 40 (15) ...

5.05 ST JOHNS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (22,425: 2m 51 (10y) (18) ...

5.25 WARRICK SPRING HANDICAP (23,365: 2m 12 (10y) (20) ...

WARWICK

THUNDERER 2.15 LITTLE MOVIE STAR, 2.45 FELIXO, 3.15 PERANO, 3.45 AYRVA, 4.20 GOLDTRINE, 4.55 CAL'DOR, 5.25 MORTO CARVO, 5.55 EASTWELL HILL...

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.15 BFF PRIDEWOLF MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (21,400: £3,751: 5f (17 runners) ...

2.45 MAY POLE LIMITED STAKES (22,637: 6f (15) ...

3.15 STONELEIGH PARK POLO CLUB HANDICAP (21,400: £4,200: 7f (20) ...

3.45 STILL MATERIALS HANDLING MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1: £3,363: 1m (11) ...

4.20 STILL MATERIALS HANDLING MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1: £3,300: 1m (10) ...

4.55 LEVY BOARD APPRENTICES HANDICAP (21,871: 1m (20) ...

TOWCESTER

THUNDERER 2.20 DUTCH DYANE, 2.50 STAG ON EYE, 3.20 CLINTON, 3.50 NORTHERN SADDLER, 4.20 LIZZY LUPULE, 4.50 MY BEST MAN, 5.20 KINGS RHAPSODY...

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

2.20 NORTHANTS 86 NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (21,702: 2m (14 runners) ...

2.50 EYON NOVICES CHASE (23,026: 2m (10) ...

3.20 GREATWORTH HANDICAP HURDLE (22,805: 2m 5 (7) ...

3.50 WAPPEHAM HANDICAP CHASE (22,884: 2m 11 (10y) (5) ...

4.20 CLARKE FAMILY CONDITIONAL MARES NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (21,856: 3m (8) ...

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER 2.00 SILVER MIXT, 2.30 REAL PROGRESS, 3.00 SHARP COMMAND, 3.30 OROG MOR, 4.00 MIFICRAT, 4.30 MISSED CALL...

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

2.00 CLOWN WORKSHOP & BOUNCY CASTLE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (23,470: 2m (14 runners) ...

2.30 GO RACING IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HUNTERS CHASE (ANNUOUS: £1,258: 3m 11 (10y) (10) ...

3.00 SOUTHWELL RACECOURSE FAMILY FUNDAY NOVICES CHASE (22,292: 2m 11 (10y) (9) ...

3.30 HARRY BISSILL MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (23,800: 2m 41 (10y) (13) ...

4.00 PUNCH & JUDY AND JAZZ BELL SELLING HURDLE (21,750: 2m (11) ...



Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'صكوكو من الاصل'

Victoria Walker suffers a sore seat in a good cause and urges others to join in a summer of fun on wheels

Charity begins on a bicycle

PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDRE CAMARA and TONY WHITE



They're off: the mass start at Clapham Common for the 21st London to Brighton cycle ride. Cheering crowds and friendly faces line the route, providing encouragement and refreshment

Right, then immediate left at the double mini roundabout, and hurrah, the signifying to me and my very sore seat that I only had one mile to go. It was at that point that I let out a whoop of delight, much to the disgust of my bicycling friends. But after successfully negotiating 49 miles, I felt it was justified.

Anyway, I think my cycling companions got off lightly as I only mentioned my bottom a dozen or so times. Although an accomplished complainer, my cycling prowess has been limited to fair weather romps through the countryside. But I have now taken part in the Rotary Club of Gravesend twelfth annual sponsored On Your Bike ride through north Kent, joining about 900 cyclists on a 50 and 25-mile ride for charity. Supporting The Ellenor Foundation, The Lions Hospice, Marie Curie Cancer Care and The PHAB Club, its success as a charity event is undisputed having to date raised over £200,000.

Charity bicycle rides are enormously popular and there is provision for the very keen to take part in a marathon ride every Sunday from April through to September. For Philip Jansseune, 33, and Stuart Johnson, 30, this is their third On Your Bike ride and Jansseune plans to complete the London Bikeathon and the London to Brighton cycle ride later this season.

Stephen Shaw, 45, took part in London's first Bikeathon in aid of Leukaemia Research last year. "The atmosphere was that of a big fun day out," he recalled. "There was a real air of festival." Shaw, a barrister at Lamb Chambers in London, and his team-mates will be forsaking their gowns and wigs in favour of Lycra for the second London Bikeathon, planned for June 7.

For Michelle Lineker, the London Bikeathon is also an important way of raising public awareness about Leukaemia Research. She and her husband, the former England footballer Gary, spent an agonising year after their first child, George, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia shortly after his birth. After many months of painful and



Clowning around: but the reason, raising money, is serious

difficult treatment, George is now in remission. "I wanted to cycle last year," Michelle said, "but I was pregnant at the time and couldn't go. I am really looking forward to being able to take part this year."

FrameStore, the Soho post-production house, is also hoping to capitalise on its success at last year's Bikeathon. Blessed with a young and relatively fit workforce, John Starns, 35, head of VT, was able to mobilise a third of employees to take part. "Everybody did it together at quite a slow pace," he said.

The sum they raised for Leukaemia Research, more than £4,000, was the largest by a corporate team. "Most were generally fit and used to

a bit of exercise," Starns said of his colleagues. He hopes to enter similar numbers this year.

Paul Evans, 30, and Mar Dibb, 28, veterans of marathon cycle rides, regularly take part in the British Heart Foundation London to Brighton ride. In 1996 they sported full Victorian bathing suits on 30-year-old Triumph and Hercules bicycles. "We trained quite hard on the old bikes for at least six weeks before we went so that we could get used to them," Evans said. "It paid off because we were quicker on those old three-speed bikes than people going up hills on their 99-speed mountain bikes."

The 23-year-old London to



Brighton ride is the British Heart Foundation's biggest single annual event, raising more than £1.7 million in the past two years. After my success at negotiating the Rotary Club's On Your Bike ride through Kent, I have even managed to gather together some colleagues to represent *The Times* in this summer's London to Brighton ride. We will be easy to spot in our Team Times T-shirts and would welcome a cheer (I, for one, will need all the encouragement I can get).

Charity cycle rides are open to all ages with a generally good level of fitness. The Henry Comton School in Fulham is planning to enter a team of pupils in this year's London Bikeathon. Their headteacher, John Hayes, said: "I am delighted that my pupils are taking part and pleased that they are getting the opportunity to extend their PE skills and interests to the benefit of others." Under the guidance of Des Benjamin, head of physical education, the students have the opportunity to use the Bikeathon as a focal point through which to learn about leukaemia and the importance of leukaemia research, as well as to follow a training programme.

The Bikeathon coincides with National Bike Week, which runs from June 6 to 14, to celebrate the benefits of cycling as a mode of transport as well as a leisure activity. Cycle ownership has doubled in Britain in the past decade. The Bicycle Association estimates that there are around 20 million bicycles in the country. With this summer's wide range of charity bike rides, it looks as though a good proportion of them will see some action.



They come and go in all shapes and sizes on charity rides, from the eccentric to a push-me-pull-you contraption

ADDRESSES

FOR information on charity cycle rides in Britain and some events in Europe: Bike Events, Box 75, Bath BA1 1BX. Tel: 01225 480130

FOR details of clubs in your area, cycle and third party insurance: British Cycling Federation, National Cycling Centre, Stuart Street, Greater Manchester M11 4DQ. Tel: 0161 230 2301

FOR information on clubs in your area and general advice: Cyclist Touring Club, Cotterell House, 69 Meadow, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3HS. Tel: 01483 417217

FOR information about the development of a National Cycle Network comprising signposted, safe cycle routes: Sustrans, 35 King Street, Bristol, Avon BS1 4DZ. Tel: 0117 929 0888

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

All too often, one fails to appreciate that a critical point in a hand has been reached, and that the next action may determine the fate of the contract. When the following hand arose in the 1998 Cap Gemini, the majority of the players in the West seat didn't realise that was the situation at trick two.

Dealer East	East-West Game	IMPs
♠ 10	♠ A975	♠ A9754
♥ KQ10843	♥ J62	♥ J62
♦ QJ	♦ 10432	♦ K62
♣ K	♣ 32	♣ 6
	♠ 32	
	♥ A954	
	♦ AQJ9875	

Contract: Five Clubs Doubled, by South. Lead: King of spades.

At several tables East opened a weak Two Spades, and South bounced to Five Clubs. Since the opening bid had virtually denied two aces, West typically doubled, and led the king of spades. Now it was up to West to decide on a course of action when his lead held the trick.

The natural play is to shift to a top heart, which seems neutral enough. But declarer ruffs in hand and lays down the ace of clubs, then ruffs a spade and ruffs a heart, and goes to dummy with the ten of clubs. Now the ace of hearts and a heart ruff concludes the elimination of the major suits. Ace of diamonds and a second diamond leaves West on play, forced to concede a ruff and discard, on which declarer's last diamond loser is discarded.

Notice that if West does not lead or shift to a heart, declarer cannot arrange the elimination - there are not enough entries to dummy. However, at only one of the eight tables did a defender spot the trap. Michel Perron led the king of spades against Five Clubs doubled, and when Chermia contributed the nine, Perron carefully continued the suit to beat the contract.

Do you think that was just lucky? I think it was good play. Declarer was marked with two spades and at least seven clubs. If he had two hearts and A9 of diamonds, he could set up the diamonds for a jump to Five Clubs. His actual 2-0-4-7 was more likely, making avoiding the elimination the correct defence.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CHYPRE
a. Scent
b. Hepatic body fluid
c. A tropical disease

LOESS
a. Norwegian hake
b. A Nepalese love song
c. A geological layer

WALDSTEIN
a. A historic gemstone
b. Piano music
c. Vessel for drinking toasts

CUDBEAR
a. A catfood carrier
b. Purple dye
c. A child's teddy

Answers on page 45

CYCLING EVENTS

Sunday May 10, 1998
Sussex Fun Bike Ride for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Choice of 18 and 37-mile circular routes through the Sussex Downs starting near Lancing. Contact Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8QG (0171-201 2372)

Sunday May 31, 1998
Norwich 100, 100 and 50-mile routes, raising money for The Greenhouse Trust and Break. Details from Bike Events (01225 480130)

Sunday June 7, 1998
London Bikeathon. In aid of Leukaemia Research. Offers a choice of 13, 26 or 52 miles - and a choice of a scenic or historic route with the start/finish line in Battersea Park (0181-671 5500)

Basingstoke Big Wheel 4. In support of St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke. Starts and finishes at the Memorial Gardens in Basingstoke and offers a 25 or 50-mile route. Contact Big Wheel 4, St Michael's Hospice, Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road, RG24 9NB (01256 350050)

Sunday June 14, 1998
Birmingham to Oxford. Supporting Cancer Research Campaign and Action Research, a 75-mile route for Birmingham's biggest bike ride. A coach will ferry riders back for an additional fee. Contact Bike Events, above.

London to Oxford. In support of Children's Hospice, a 60-mile ride through the Chilterns to reach Oxford at the same time as the riders from Birmingham. Contact Bike Events, above.

Sunday June 21, 1998
London to Brighton. In aid of the British Heart Foundation, this is one of Britain's largest charity cycle rides. Numbers are restricted to 27,000. Contact British Heart Foundation Bike Rides, 14 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 4DH (0891 616077)

Sunday June 28, 1998
Weald & Downland Bike Ride. Cycle 50 or 25 miles from Haslemere in Surrey in support of Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability. A special train runs cyclists (and bikes) from London Waterloo with return in evening. Contact Bike Events, above.

Sunday July 5, 1998
New Forest Bike Ride. For the Rose Road Children's Appeal, catch the ferry from Southampton to Hythe and follow a course via Beaulieu, Lyminster, and Brockenhurst. Contact Bike Events, above.

Sunday July 12, 1998
Manchester to Blackpool. The North West's biggest bike ride is now in its twelfth year. Riders are encouraged to support a charity of their choice through raising sponsorship and coaches are laid on to take riders to or from the event. Contact Bike Events, above.

Sunday July 26, 1998
London to Cambridge. A 60-mile ride in support of WWF going from North London via Essex and Hertfordshire. Contact WWF-UK, London to Cambridge Bike Ride, FREEPOST SCE729, Panda House, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1BR (01483 426269)

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Club chess

The RAC in Pall Mall, London, has one of the most active chess circles in the London clubs community. This season the RAC tied for first place with the Athenaeum in the clubs championship while each year the RAC also organises a simultaneous display by a leading master against its members. Today I give two examples of play from recent RAC competitions.

White: Marsh
Black: Woodward
Royal Automobile Club 1998

Bird's Opening

1	f4	c5
2	d3	Nf6
3	Nf3	e6
4	Bc2	Bc7
5	e3	0-0
6	Bd3	c5
7	0-0	Nc6
8	a3	h6
9	Nc3	b6
10	Ne2	Bb7
11	Ng3	Rc8
12	Oe2	Na5
13	c4	Nb3
14	Rae1	dc4
15	Bae4	Bd3
16	Rd3	Nxd2
17	Rd1	Nc3+
18	Oc3	Oe7
19	Nh5	Nh5
20	Ocd5	Rd8
21	Rf1	Od7
22	Og4	g6
23	h5	Kf7
24	Bae6	Od3
25	Bd7	Rd7
26	Oxg6	checkmate

Draw agreed

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

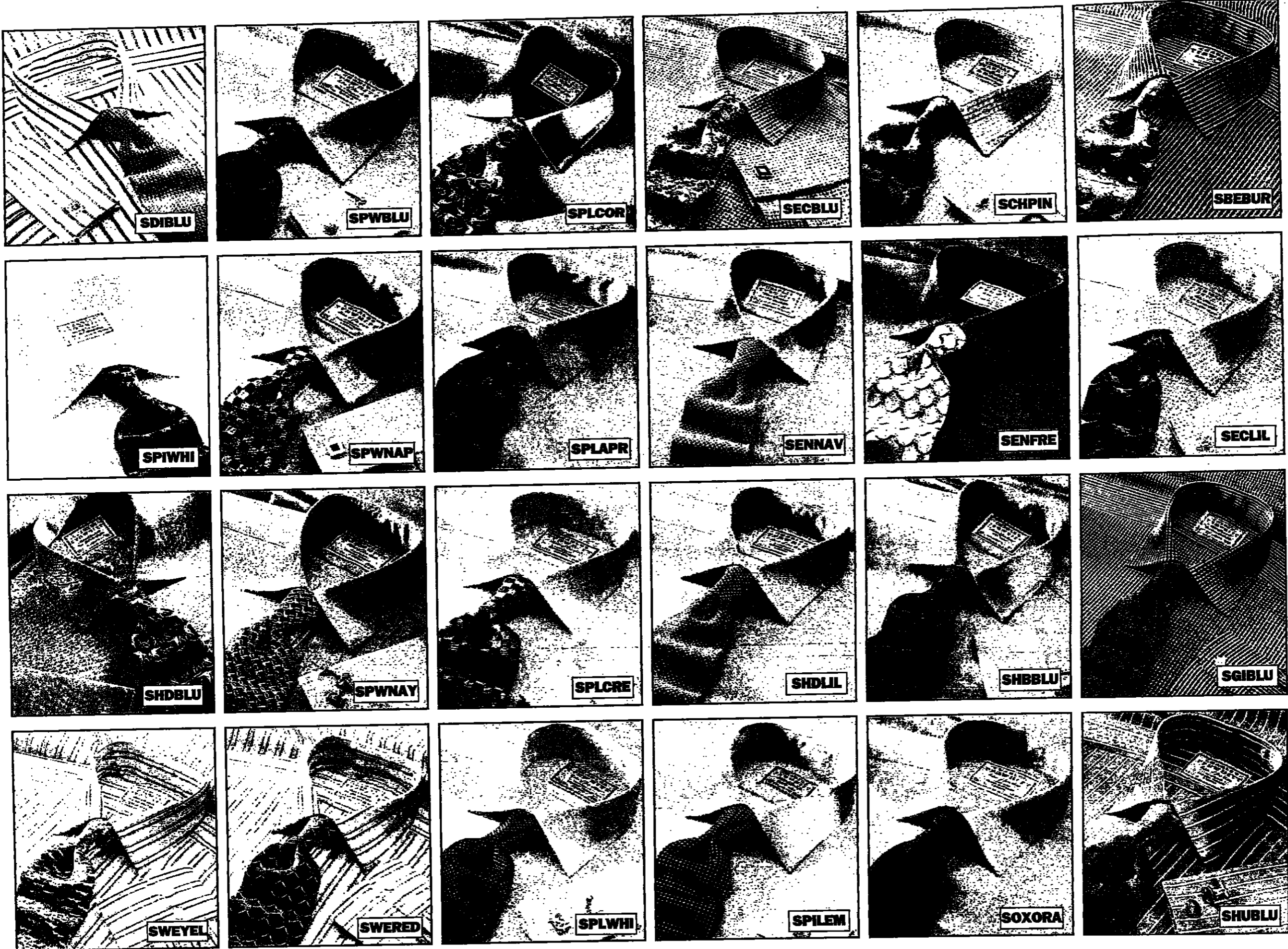
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Maric - Bojkovic, Belgrade, 1998. Although material is level, the white forces are all much more active than their black counterparts. How did the game continue?

Solution on page 45

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

TOP-QUALITY SHIRTS FOR HALF PRICE



Plus save 25% on extra shirts

Today, *The Times* offers you the chance to receive 50 per cent off one of 24 stylish shirts carefully selected by Charles Tyrwhitt, the bespoke shirtmaker based in Jermyn Street, London. Our exclusive offer gives you a saving of £20 off the normal price of £40.

You can also buy as many extra top-quality shirts as you wish at the same time for £30 each, a saving of £10 per shirt. Only one order per person per household is permitted. The offer gives you a choice of six types of fabric, eight collar sizes and a single or double cuff. Keep this colour page for reference of all 24 shirts and an order form will be published on Wednesday.



HOW TO ORDER YOUR SHIRTS

Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven appearing until Saturday and send them with the completed order form to be published on Wednesday. Please enter the code for each shirt you require. Postage and packing is £2.50 per order in the UK. Postage to Europe is £5 and £10 for international orders. The offer is valid for orders received by Monday June 1, 1998.

CHARLES TYRWHITT SHIRT DESCRIPTIONS		
<p>TWO-FOLD COTTON POPLIN</p> <p>This yarn is superfine and creates a fabric that has long been acknowledged by traditional shirtmakers for its cool feel, fine texture, day-long crispness and lasting durability. Choose from:</p> <p>PLAIN POPLINS SPI-WBI White Poplin SPI-SBE Cream Poplin SPI-CBI Cornflower Blue Poplin SPL-APB Apricot Poplin</p> <p>PRINCE OF WALES CHECKS SPI-WBL Prince of Wales Blue SPI-WAP Prince of Wales Pink on Blue SPI-WBY Prince of Wales Yellow on Blue</p> <p>TATTERSALL CHECK SPI-FBI Pink Tattersall</p> <p>HUDSON STRIPES SPI-BLI Hudson Blue</p> <p>BENGAL STRIPES SPI-BBI Bengal Burgundy</p> <p>BLUE STRIPED RANGE SPI-BLI Director Blue</p> <p>WELLINGTON RANGE SPI-WBL Wellington Yellow SPI-WEB Wellington Red</p> <p>GINGHAM SPI-BLI Gingham Blue</p>	<p>OXFORD COTTON RANGE</p> <p>Oxford broadcloth is famous for its softness, flexibility and durability. It is exceptionally comfortable and can be worn as casual or formal wear.</p> <p>SBE-ORA Oxford Orange</p> <p>END-ON-ENDS</p> <p>A term invented by the French (fin-a-fin), a fabric in which the white thread is interwoven with a coloured thread to produce a subtle textured effect. It retains the coolness and softness of plain two-fold poplin.</p> <p>SEN-MAY Sky Blue SEN-FBE French Blue SED-LIL Lilac Check SED-BLU Blue Check</p> <p>HOUSTON</p> <p>Using only the finest two-fold Egyptian cotton, the houndstooth is a fine weave of white and coloured yarn to create an ultra-fine check effect.</p> <p>SED-BLU Houndstooth Check SED-LIL Houndstooth Lilac</p>	<p>PINPOINT</p> <p>Combines the qualities of two-fold cotton poplin with Oxford broadcloth, the lustre and superfine texture of poplin, with the comfort and durability of Oxford. The finish of this pinpoint is exceptional and creates a silkiness of its own.</p> <p>SPI-LEM Lemon Pinpoint SPI-WBI White Pinpoint</p> <p>HERRINGBONE</p> <p>Herringbone is a traditional fabric that has recently come back into fashion. The shirt is full-colour from a distance, but with an intricate cross-cross weave close-up.</p> <p>SBE-BLI Blue Herringbone</p>



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THE TIMES MONDAY MAY 4 1998
 May 1
 Court of Appeal
 Time run
 School fees can

May Day Monday Jumbo Crossword Competition

- ACROSS 1 Long-distance fier put up with restraining anger (8) 5 Arab in backward era, displaying overweening 63 (8) 10 My name may head the list for the post (9) 16 Fussy over salad - a new one from America (11) 17 To pin down artist in conversation, one may implement 30 (9) 18 Caught in a pet, I found they're rather prickly (5) 19 Impossible to suggest whence examinees should derive inspiration (3,2,3,8) 20 Eccentric millionaire rejecting one source of fuel (7,3) 22 Training facility stopped short in error - bearing with it? (4-8) 23 Spicy sausage sadly returned - minute one (6) 24 Feeling envious in Paris, I may appear a parasite, almost (7) 27 Nearly reinvigorated, crunching certain fruit (9) 29 I look after property, having properly guaranteed fence (8,8) 31 Source of mineral - a lot reported (4) 32 Report on proposals not used by the FT (5,5) 33 Bug caught in part of Manchester during a party (5,6) 36 Young person's flat, tidy at first - one has space to go round with companions (5,6) 38 Fume endlessly, finding hidden camera equipment in Russian town (8) 40 Piece of music half-recalled at a nostalgic gathering (6) 43 Doctor cooking meat used some imagination (6) 44 Ruin TV broadcast about the French, being very hostile (8) 45 Beard conceals motive, involving serious offence (11) 47 Went round to get hold of missing years, and made copies (11) 49 Concerned about current changes (10) 51 Heard where there's fighting (4) 53 In which the sum of the parts is usually greater than the whole (8,8) 55 One using 49 therapy, slaying at modification (9) 58 Artist offered thanks, if brought over a liqueur (7) 59 Cheerful, taking it on the chin (6) 60 Broken clutch plate? (9,3) 63 Action taken, on reflection, is a matter of pride (4-6) 64 Is one driven to make a bundle out of corny material? (7,9) 67 Avoid repetition in trifling complaint about Scots town (5) 68 Not a regular figure, do I appear odd taking over end of bar? (9) 69 Accompanying candidate is 70? Make a final check (7,4) 70 In a row, to do with article by socialist (2,3,4) 71 Silly hobby, cutting out middles in change, in juvenile manner (8) 72 Making a false assumption (8)

- DOWN 1 WJ completely prudent, mostly opposing moral lapse (9) 2 Great success with chapter in narrative sent up (5) 3 Conserve trade, going over transport problem (7,3) 4 One more player not selected (7) 6 Pack of reds? (6,5) 7 Silent about aiming for change (6) 8 Did one have a spell in Birmingham venue? Liari (11) 9 Hemmed in by girl whose top's slipped down (4) 10 It may cause corrosion - about to come in to help, if that's right (9) 11 Disc-jockey briefly expanded part of formal wardrobe (6-6) 12 It's an American! (11,5) 13 It's jargon - thus, see logic-chopping about nothing (11) 14 Old recording I criticise severely - it's about the embryo (8) 15 Yearly celebration - suggested timing, ten to two? (10) 21 Badgering hospital dept, supporting fool with external injury (10) 23 Range could be twice as nice, with added depth (9) 26 Neglecting the usual run of winter sport (3-5) 28 Catch one's breath, and fill a space in the light? (6) 30 Combining forces, wandering about to catch sheep (8) 31 Perhaps passenger has seen game with no score (4,4) 34 Where rings may be stored while one's away (9,7) 35 Parameters settled, built bookshelves for encyclopaedias? (5,2,9) 37 Great description of traditional Times editorialist (10) 39 Broadcasting - it's all about atmosphere (2,3,3) 41 French inn imports popular tropical fruit (9) 42 Attack when ships appear (6) 46 She may be reunited with family, taking second husband (4-8) 48 Orbiting mass with zero albedo, perhaps to be revealed (4,2,5) 49 Studying destiny of holy caste, go astray (11) 50 Should one turn up the bass, doing the twist? (4,7) 52 Lose enough pounds for the fight, or a bit extra (10) 54 Looking back on traditional coat of arms (9) 56 A gem - brilliant! Yes, I greet that wildly (6-3) 57 Rich American's neglected part of Shakespeare's work (8) 61 Perhaps fence in black dog, after initial escape (7) 62 Hero appeared here in legend - by diving into rising foaming water? (6) 65 Old couple, one called Mark (5) 66 Basil - maybe the man right to have taken over Sybil's heart? (4)

MAY DAY JUMBO CROSSWORD 164 Prizes of £100 will be given for the first six correct solutions opened on Monday, May 18, 1998. Entries should be sent to: May Day Jumbo Crossword (164), The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published in Weekend on Saturday, May 23

Crossword grid (164) with numbered squares and a form for NAME, ADDRESS, and POSTCODE.

Times Two May Day crossword. There is no prize for this crossword. The solution will be published on Monday, May 11. Includes ACROSS and DOWN clues.

Court of Appeal

Law Report May 4 1998

Court of Appeal

Time runs from date of entry

Commissions due are wages

Hillingdon London Borough Council v ARC Ltd. Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery. [Judgment April 7]. A claim for compensation for compulsory purchase resulting from the entry by an acquiring authority on land pursuant to section 11 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 was subject to the limitation period laid down in section 9 of the Limitation Act 1980 notwithstanding that the amount of compensation payable had not been agreed or determined by the Lands Tribunal.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that the judge found that ARC's cause of action arose when the council had entered on and taken possession of the land on April 26, 1982, that being the day when ARC first had a right to compensation. He had held that the compensation was "a sum recoverable by virtue of any enactment" irrespective of whether the compensation had yet been quantified by agreement or by the Lands Tribunal and that on that basis the limitation period had expired in 1988. While it was not essential to his decision, the judge went on to hold that a reference to the Lands Tribunal was "an action to recover compensation for the purposes of section 9(1) of the 1980 Act."

Blackstone Franks Investment Management Ltd v Robertson. Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery. [Judgment April 7]. Commissions due to a self-employed person under a contract of services that became payable after termination of the contract were payments of "wages" under section 7 of the Wages Act 1986. However, section 5(6) of that Act entitled the employer to deduct from such wages amounts of advance commission already paid to the worker.

Thus the two questions on the appeal were whether the industrial tribunal erred in law (a) in holding that the commissions paid to Mr Robertson after the termination of his contract were wages within section 7 of the 1986 Act, and (b) in ordering Blackstone to pay £14,126 to Mr Robertson in respect of the deduction of his commissions, without taking account of the advance against future commissions of £10,500. That point turned on the construction of section 5(6) of the Act.

School fees can be reasonable domestic need

Justices cannot retrospectively refuse to accept plea

In re Rayatt. Before Mr Michael Hart, QC. [Judgment April 8]. There was no rule of law to the effect that avoidable expenditure on the education of children, including private school fees, could not constitute a reasonable domestic need for the purposes of section 31(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986. Reasonable domestic need was an issue of fact and each case had to be examined by reference to its individual circumstances.

Regina v Herefordshire Youth Court, Ex parte J. Before Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Brian Smedley. [Judgment April 22]. Where a defendant appeared in a youth court represented by a solicitor, was properly identified, understood the charge put, and entered a plea of guilty, the justices did not have the power subsequently to refuse to accept that plea and determine that the proceedings had been void from the beginning.

P&O eyes wharfies' battle

Just about every Australian has an opinion about the "wharfies" — the unionised dockers whose fight to keep control of the waterfront has gripped the nation. They are either heroes defending the Aussie tradition of a "fair go" for all, or parasites who deserve to be crushed for the crime of "rotting" (cheating) the system.

Even Alan Bond, the flamboyant businessman in jail for fraud, has managed to enliven the debate with his cell-window view of the proceedings.

For nearly four weeks, the wharfies have been locked in combat with the Australian Government and the Patrick stevedoring company. Watching anxiously is P&O, the UK group that happens to be the largest container port operator in Australia.

The storm blew up when Patrick fired its entire wharfie workforce of 1,400 with the backing of John Howard, the Prime Minister. The wharfies are members of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and Patrick wanted to replace them with 400 non-unionised workers who would be able to move cargo more productively.

Mr Howard's style is poles apart from his left-wing predecessor, Paul Keating, and they disagree on issues ranging from Aboriginal land rights to the desirability of a republic.

With Peter Reith, Minister for Workplace Relations, Mr Howard has staked his reputation on reforming the waterfront.

One industry source claims that it is quite common for an MUA wharfie to earn about A\$30,000 (£31,000) a year, with A\$100,000 (£39,000) not unusual. Mr Howard and Mr Reith deny claims that they are just on a union-busting exercise.

The first round seemed to go to the Government and Patrick. Picketing wharfies were unable to stop the Australian Endeavour ship being unloaded at Sydney's Port Botany by non-union labour.

The MUA also seemed to score an own goal when members allowed children on to the



A policewoman gets a grip on a sacked Australian dockworker during an attempt to break up a picket line in Fremantle

picket lines, leading to uncomfortable television scenes of youngsters screaming as the police dragged adults from under their noses.

However, the chant of "M-U-A, here to stay" has become more convincing as the battle has gone on. The complex manœuvres employed by Patrick to sack the MUA workers have come under scrutiny in court.

Toyota had to halt production at its Melbourne plant because of a parts shortage. Although Patrick succeeded in unloading Australian Endeavour, getting cargo off the waterfront was more fraught, and pickets succeeded in disrupting the Toyota production schedule, made vulnerable by its reliance

on just-in-time delivery. Chris Corrigan, Patrick's chief executive, was attacked by his brother in the media. Derek Corrigan said that he was horrified by his sibling's actions.

Most importantly, the Federal Court ruled last week that Patrick must reinstate the fired 1,400 pending full examination of the legality of the sackings in about three months.

Although Patrick succeeded in freezing the effects of the ruling and was then able to delay the process further with an appeal, the wharfies look to have the upper hand.

It is expected that the injunction reinstating the wharfies until a trial will be upheld this morning, although the issue of how they can be re-employed when the part of the Patrick group that hired them is insolvent remained unresolved at the end of last week.

As the biggest container terminal operator in Australia, controlling an estimated 50 per cent of facilities to Patrick's 45 per cent, P&O has a big interest in the outcome.

P&O employs about 1,300 workers in Australia. The ports accounted for a minority of the £70 million profit that it made in the Australia and Asia Pacific region last year.

Since the P&O ports have been left alone by MUA pickets, the UK group has picked up a lot of trade in the short

term at Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Fremantle. One industry source estimated that 70 to 75 per cent of containers have been going through P&O, instead of the usual 50 per cent.

However, P&O has had to channel business to Patrick in the past when his by its own MUA troubles — as recently as the latter part of last year — so it is very much a case of swings and roundabouts.

P&O is likely to sit down to its own pay negotiations with the MUA before the full hearing on the Patrick sackings. If the union wins the court battle today as expected, few will envy P&O its place at the table.

ADAM JONES

Never mind that your train is late again, think of the fat profits

Little more than a year ago, ScotRail, the last train service in British Rail, was passed into private hands. National Express picked it up when drivers were on strike, its was absorbing £300 million of public subsidy and its fleet of slam-door carriages needed renewing.

Later this month, ScotRail will be named as the most punctual service in mainland Britain (pipped by the Isle of Wight's eight-mile line).

National Express has shed plenty of staff with hardly a squeak from unions. ScotRail's punctuality has increased by 15 per cent and this year it should make £5.9 million in profit. So far, a textbook example of rail privatisation.

Overall figures for the network, however, show a much more depressing picture. For the 12 months to March 31 — the first year of full privatisation — only five of 25 franchises improved punctuality. But, fines will barely dent their hefty subsidies, and analysts are already rubbing their hands in anticipation of a season of bumper train profits.

Stagecoach, whose South West Trains was among the first to be privatised, should make £19.7 million — even though punctuality worsened.

Anglia Railways, whose number of late trains increased also, is expected to deliver a pre-tax profit of £1.6 million. Go-Ahead, owner of the rapidly deteriorating Thames Trains, will make £2.7 million.

But this resounding financial success has displeased customers, and many in the industry suggest that the missing ingredient is effective competition. Of the five top performers, two, Thameslink and Silverlink, operate in London, against serious competition.

Thameslink's punctuality

improved by 20 per cent, and Euan Cameron, the managing director, says: "We have competitive operators coming at us from all sides of London. If we get the best quality of service, people will use us — it's as simple as that."

In the past year, Thameslink has taken on 37 more train drivers, almost all experienced hands who used to work for South West Trains or arch-rival Gatwick Express. He employs a few qualified drivers as guards, so they can step in if the regular crew falls ill, one of the most common causes of late trains.

Overall, subsidies paid out fell by £231 million in the past year to £1.85 billion. Next year, it will cost £1.6 billion and in five years will drop to £925 million — more or less where it was during the leaner days of British Rail.

Meanwhile the FTSE transport index has risen 65 per cent in three months, and John O'Brien, the franchise director, is not likely to display any bravado when he announces the performance figures. In other words, the train operators are home and dry.

FRASER NELSON

John O'Brien: no bravado

"It's not rocket science," he says. "We just work through and eliminate problem by problem." And it will pay off. London franchises are heavily sensitive to revenue growth: the capital lures commuters in times of prosperity and Thameslink should bring Go-Ahead £2 million of profit.

At the other end of the punctuality league is Virgin Rail, which this summer is seeking a £250 million flotation. The company started from an unenviable position. Richard Branson chose the two worst-performing franchises, CrossCountry and West Coast, and intended to create

the country's fastest services. He plans a £2 billion investment in the 3,000-mile network and in ten years it will probably be the finest railway in Europe. But at the moment, despite a £190 million investment last year, its punctuality rate has barely improved, and seems a poor basis on which to launch a flotation. But Brian Barrett, the chief executive of Virgin Rail, says punctuality is only part of the service.

"Some of our journeys last for 11 hours. Ten minutes on 11 hours is a very different matter from ten minutes on a two-minute journey." Punctuality figures do not show the £100 million that Virgin has invested in trains, refurbishing interiors and electrical systems — nor the £19 London to Manchester return fares, nor the £35 Scotland returns, he says.

While its lowly punctuality record may rile John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, Virgin is not much of a headache to the Treasury. Its franchises will have absorbed £770 million of public subsidy by 2001, but payback time for taxpayers starts in 2002. ScotRail, by contrast, will have used £1.96 billion of subsidy by 2004, without any hope of breaking into the black.

Overall, subsidies paid out fell by £231 million in the past year to £1.85 billion. Next year, it will cost £1.6 billion and in five years will drop to £925 million — more or less where it was during the leaner days of British Rail.

Meanwhile the FTSE transport index has risen 65 per cent in three months, and John O'Brien, the franchise director, is not likely to display any bravado when he announces the performance figures. In other words, the train operators are home and dry.

FRASER NELSON

Financial market data table with columns for 1998 High, Low, Mid cap (million), Price, Wtd % +/-, YTD %, P/E. Includes sections for FTSE 100, FTSE 250, and various industry groups like Chemicals, Food, and Telecom.

Granada for Paris

Advertisement for British Airways featuring the slogan "You won't wake up with your head on someone else's lap-top." and the text "Fly First and have your own private cabin." Includes the British Airways logo and the tagline "The world's favourite airline."

كنا من الأصل

WORD-WATCHING... Important perfume... SOLUTION TO WINNING...

1998
Tour
in,
ofits

THE FACTS

Total return: £415.5 million
Net Asset Value: 518p (at
September 30, 1997)
Overview: The UK's longest
established provider of
venture capital to small and
medium-sized businesses,
investing more than £8
billion in over 12,000 busi-
nesses since 1945. Invest-
ments in about 3,000
companies in the UK. Of-
fices in Germany, France,
Spain and Italy.

THE BOARD

The chief executive of 3i is
Brian Larcombe, 44, who
succeeded Ewen Macpherson
in July 1997. He
joined 3i in 1994, rising to
take charge of finance and
guide 3i through its flotation
in 1994. He is past chairman
of the British Venture Cap-
ital Association.
The 3i chairman, Sir
George Russell, 62, is a
boardroom veteran, chairing
the Independent Television
Commission (ITC) from 1990
to 1996. He is chairman of
Carnelot, the National Lot-
tery operator, and chairs the
Northern Development
Corporation. He is a director
of Northern Rock Building
Society, Taylor Woodrow
and Alcan Aluminium.
Executive directors in-
clude Michael Queen, who
succeeded Larcombe as fi-
nance director in last July's
boardroom reshuffle. Long-
serving non-executives in-
clude John Melbourn,
deputy chairman, recently
retired from the board of
National Westminster Bank.
He is chairman of The
Maple Group, and a
director of Tesco and Sainsbury
International Bank. Lord
Carmoy, former deputy
chairman of Sotheby's
Holdings, is a director of
Perpetual, British Grolux
and The Royal Collection
Trust. William Gowett, who
bowed out in July, is a
director of various invest-
ment trusts, including
Govett Oriental, and of Hal-
fax Financial Services.
Newcomers, appointed
last July, include Baroness
Hogg, head of the Prime
Minister's policy unit from
1990 to 1995. She is a
director of GKN, National
Provident Institution, and
The Energy Group, and is
newly appointed to the
board of the Scottish East-
ern Investment Trust.
Also new to the board is
Dr John Forrest, chairman
of Brewton Group and vice-
president of the Royal
Academy of Engineering.

HARDLY A CORNER OF BRITAIN — and increasingly Europe — has escaped the tentacles of 3i. Half a century of backing hopeful entrepreneurs has produced such famous names as British Caledonian and Compass, not to mention Phileas Fogg crisps. Bond Helicopters flew on 3i money. Isoceles crashed in spite of it.

With its roots stretching back to the 1940s, 3i has been in a league of its own for years, commanding the field with its selective cash handouts. Today's league tables tell a different story. 3i remains way out in front in terms of sheer volume, with 63 deals worth £439 million in 1997, according to *Acquisitions Monthly*, which ranks leading equity arrangers in UK buyouts. It accounts for about a fifth of UK venture capital investment.

But there is no shortage of pretenders to the crown. NatWest Equity Partners, second to 3i with 16 deals worth £237 million last year, is coming up fast. Started by a 3i alumnus, it seems set to give 3i a run for its money. Eleven handled deals worth £437 million last year, but only six of them, rather than 63. Others to watch include Electra Fleming, Candover Investments, CVC Capital Partners, Phildrew Ventures and Alchemy Partners.

Faced with this crowded canvas, 3i can ill afford to rest easy. It is way out in front geographically, with 18 regional UK offices stretching from Southampton to Aberdeen. Inroads are being made in mainland Europe and South-East Asia. 3i is investing heavily in internal communications, allowing its 750 employees to share information about clients and markets at the push of a button.

A lucrative spin-off lies in managing unlisted funds on behalf of other investors. Unquoted funds under management increased from £500 million to £1.4 billion last year. According to *Casnovie & Co*, fee income and interest on these funds is probably worth an extra 40p on the value of each 3i share.

While the UK is highly developed as a venture capital market, it is far from saturated. 3i has investments in about 3,000 companies, and has identified a further 30,000 well-run private companies in which it would like to hold investments. New companies are being created all the time.

CORPORATE PROFILE: 3i



British Caledonian netted £100 million for 3i, whose capital investment also helped Waterstone's and Laura Ashley; Brian Larcombe, top, chief executive, who saw 3i through its flotation in 1994; and his predecessor Ewen Macpherson, flanked by the chairman, Sir George Russell, right

bringing fresh opportunities. This said, mainland Europe looks increasingly tempting.

Management buyouts (MBOs) and buy-ins (MBIs) were largely unknown on the Continent until four or five years ago, and activity is gathering pace. Germany has about 220,000 medium-sized companies in private hands. Many of the founders are looking to sell out but hate the idea of selling to foreigners. MBOs provide a means of "keeping it in the family".

Germany aside, 3i has offices in France, Spain and Italy, and has 100 people working on the ground. An office has opened in Singapore to investigate opportunities in the region. Brian Larcombe, the chief executive, is eager to grow 3i's technology portfolio. About 25 per cent of new investments are in technology businesses. Of 21 quoted biotechnology

companies in the UK, 3i started 13.

3i traces its origins to the closing months of the Second World War, when two new institutions were set up with a view to channeling capital into industrial growth. In 1929 a committee under the chair-

manship of Lord Macmillan identified a gap — the "Macmillan gap" — in the financing of small and medium-sized companies.

The Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC) was created to bridge the gap; backed by the Bank of England and major clearing banks. The Finance Corporation for Industry (FCI) was to channel larger sums to industrial sectors — mainly the steel industry, as it turned out. In 1973 the pair came together to form Finance For Industry (FFI). Nine years later, Wolff Olins, the design company, was asked to come up with a new name altogether. "Investors in Industry" led to the more radical "3i", which moved onto letterheads in the summer of 1983.

There is a long roll-call of 3i investments, successful or otherwise. In 1967 ICFC's office in Glasgow provided development capital to Caledonian Airways, an operator of charter flights, which merged with British United Airways two years later to form British Caledonian (BCal). Regular calls for capital left ICFC holding 47 per cent of the equity, but it all worked out in

1987, when British Airways bought BCal, netting 3i just over £100 million.

If this was 3i's largest-ever profit, its biggest loss was swift in following. The group was a backer to Isoceles, the vehicle created by SG Warburg (as it then was) to mount a contested £2.4 billion management buy-in of the Gateway supermarket chain. The deal went wrong and 3i had to write-off £28 million in mezzanine debt and £45 million of equity.

with 3i backing. 3i put up some of the money behind Derwent Valley Foods, maker of Phileas Fogg snacks, which started with a single factory in 1983. After ten years, sales exceeded £20 million. Derwent Valley was sold to United Biscuits for £24 million.

Other recipients of 3i investment capital include Alders, Forte, Geest, Laura Ashley, LDV (formerly Leyland Daf Vans), MORI, Prontaprint Group, Tibbett & Britten, Traveller's Fare and Wickes.

3i came to the market in July 1994 in a £1.6 billion flotation, taking its place in the FTSE 100 index soon afterwards. It is classified as an investment trust — for tax reasons — leading to some confusion among analysts. 3i's exposure to unquoted companies makes it harder to value than "true" investment trusts, with their holdings in listed shares.

It has not been a totally smooth ride. 3i closed five regional offices in 1992 and saw staff numbers all but halve. Exposure to smaller unquoted companies makes 3i vulnerable to market swings. As for the management, 3i is often described as surprisingly conservative. Some say it is just plain dull.

3i's external ethical expression is mainly limited to environmental matters, earning it a modest score from Integrity Works, our independent consultant. As for boardroom pay, Crisp Consulting considers 3i to run a tight ship. Ewen Macpherson realised gains of £1.7 million on share options in the year to March 31, 1997, but most of it was attributable to prior years. His total pay was £94,000, compared with a Crisp ideal of £73,000. The number of non-executives is within limit and they are paid less than normal.

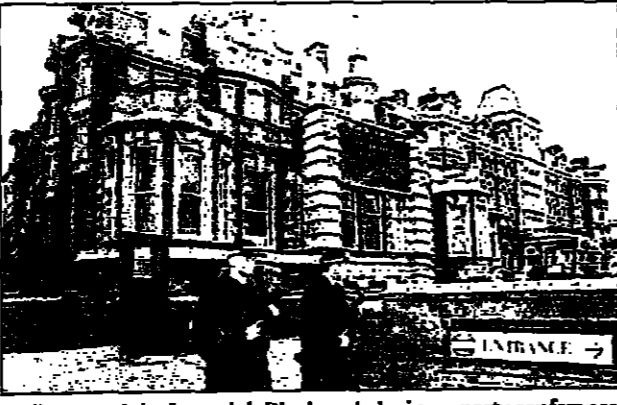
JON ASHWORTH

OUR VERDICT

Table with 2 columns: Metric and Score. Metrics include Ethical expression, Fat-cat quotient, Financial record, Share performance, Attitude to employees, Strength of brand, Innovation, Annual report, City star rating, Future prospects, Total score.

Granada's resort hotels for Paramount at £35m

THE asset sale initiated by Granada in the wake of its £3.9 billion takeover of Forte is set to continue with the sale of three of its biggest and most famous provincial hotels for about £35 million. Industry sources say that the media and leisure group is close to signing a deal with Paramount Hotel Group, a small Leeds company in which Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group headed by Jon Moulton, is preparing to take a controlling stake.



Police guard the Imperial, Blackpool, during a party conference

Table titled 'FORTE DISPOSALS' with columns: Asset, Book value, Sale Price, Purchaser.

and has given Mr Purhill until next week to sign a deal. Paramount's five existing hotels, which include two other former Forte hotels — the Prince of Wales in Southampton and the Palace in Buxton, Derbyshire — make an operating profit of about £5.5 million from turnover of just under £20 million.

Alchemy is working on a funding deal that would enable Mr Purhill to buy out Paramount and acquire the three Forte hotels in one hit at a total cost approaching £75 million. The Alchemy partner leading the deal is Eric Walters, who was previously a partner in Schroder Ventures and who sat on the Paramount board.

A deal with Paramount would take the amount raised by Granada from Forte asset disposals to almost £1.5 billion against a book value of less than £1.2 billion. Including the sale of Granada businesses such as computer services, the total raised is more than £1.8 billion, compared with the £1.3 billion promised by Gerry Robinson, Granada's chairman, in the wake of the Forte takeover two years ago.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41
CHYPRE (n) An important perfume in Roman times, made in Cyprus (French: Chypre) from storax, labdanum and calamus (extract of sandalwood). This heavy, oriental smell was popular in Italy in the Middle Ages and in France from the 17th century. Westminster Gazette, 1901: "No woman who uses Chypre has any sense of proportion."
LOESS (n) Unconsolidated sediment deposited by the wind. Loess consists of silty-sized quartz particles (0.05-0.06mm in diameter), majority of silt-sized quartz particles. It occurs widely in central USA, showing little or no stratification. It occurs widely in central USA, Northern Europe, Russia, China and Argentina. Loess makes rugged topography with steep slopes.
WALDSTEIN Op 53 piano sonata, a major work of his middle period. It came concurrently with the gift of a new quality piano period. It came concurrently with the gift of a new quality piano period. Dedicated to Beethoven's chum, Count from Sebastian Erard. Dedicated to Beethoven's chum, Count from Sebastian Erard. Different structure and key relationships of first movement subjects, different structure and key relationships of first movement subjects, an abbreviated second movement and a musically substantial finale.
CUDBEAR (n) A purple dye obtained from a lichen, Ochrolechia tartarea. The lichen forms thick grey-brownish, rough, warty crusts on a range of substrates, eg trees, soil, rocks. The dye used to be extracted from the lichen thalli by steeping them in urine.

CHANGE ON WEEK

Table titled 'THE POUND' showing exchange rates for US dollar, German mark, Exchange index, and 'STOCK MARKET' showing FT 30 share, FTSE 100, New York Dow Jones, Tokyo Nikkei Avege.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

ADVENTURES FROM £5. Includes an image of a person in a hot air balloon basket and a '50 YEARS' anniversary logo. Text describes a reader offer for adventure activities.

TOMORROW: HOT AIR BALLOONING BUNGEE JUMPING AND TIGER MOTH FLYING. Includes details about the offer, a coupon for a reader offer, and a 'CHANGING TIMES' logo.



IN THE DOCK 44

P&O keeps an eye on the 'wharfies' battle

BUSINESS

HARD CASH 46

The euro is not inevitable, says Roger Bootle



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MAY 4 1998

PowerGen talks to potential American partners

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

POWERGEN, the privatised power generating group, is expected to make a statement to the Stock Exchange tomorrow after it emerged that it has held talks with several potential US partners. They include Houston Industries, America's ninth-largest electricity group.

Rivals head-to-head for £2bn order

BA ready to favour Airbus over Boeing

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS is preparing for an historic shift from its links with Boeing by making a ground-breaking deal with rival aircraft manufacturer Airbus Industrie.

cutties that Boeing have had. In addition Airbus seem to be more flexible in arranging finance, training and giving engineering support. They do seem to have a very different attitude from Boeing, who still think they are the only major manufacturer in the world.

make an announcement later this year, possibly by late summer, and is expected to give one of the manufacturers the full contract, initially to supply 30 aircraft worth up to £600 million, with an option on a further 70, which would take the order up to £2 billion.

Staff to gain as IT firm heads for £1bn float

By MARTIN WALLER

BRITAIN'S biggest information technology flotation is to start in earnest tomorrow when Computacenter issues its pathfinder prospectus for a £1 billion-plus stock market debut.

The stock market quotation of Computacenter, which provides services to many City institutions and more than half the companies in the FTSE 100 index, will make multimillionaires of Philip Hulme and Peter Ogden, the two founders of the company, who own 26 per cent each, and it will also reward the near-700 employees who hold 18 per cent of Computacenter's shares.

Apex Partners, the venture capital business, owns 22 per cent of the company, and Foreign & Colonial owns 7 per cent.

Goldman Sachs, the global co-ordinator to the issue, has taken on three powerful brokers, CSFB, HSBC and the renamed BT Alex Brown, which incorporates NatWest Securities, to form the rest of the syndicate selling the issue to institutions.



Body blow: Anita Roddick, whose Body Shops have not made profits in the US since 1994

Body Shop forges link in US to attack losses

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BODY SHOP plans to join forces with an American partner in an attempt to stem its growing losses in the US.

Shop, which runs an international chain of health and beauty shops founded by Anita Roddick, has experienced in the US have been well documented. If the deal goes ahead it will be the first time that the chain has teamed up with an outsider to run part of its business.

chise business in a joint venture. The partner would reorganise administration and distribution, which have been weak.

Thomson runs out of share forms

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

A GREATER than expected demand for shares in the forthcoming Thomson Travel Group (TTG) flotation has left investors without application forms for the issue - just days before deadline.

application forms. One couple, Mike and Carol Landier, from East Sussex, said they registered for the offer last month with the Share Centre and were becoming increasingly anxious as the deadline loomed and they had not received the documents.

Biotech inquiry reopened by Cameron McKenna

By PAUL DURMAN

CAMERON MCKENNA, the law firm, has reopened its investigation into controversial events at British Biotech, the drug development company run by Keith McCullagh, the Government's adviser on high-technology firms.

May, the company made two upbeat statements about it. The European Medicines Evaluation Agency hopes to put its objections on the Internet today. Biotech has stopped publication of details of Cameron McKenna's original report by seeking injunctions on newspapers.

Venture capital funding surges

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

A SURGE into continental Europe boosted British venture capital investment to a record £4.2 billion in 1997, up from £3.2 billion in 1996. Of this, almost £1 billion was put into companies in the euro area, nearly three times the figure for 1996. And this does not include investments made by offices of members of the British Venture Capital Association across the Channel.

Taxman demanding £1 arrears

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

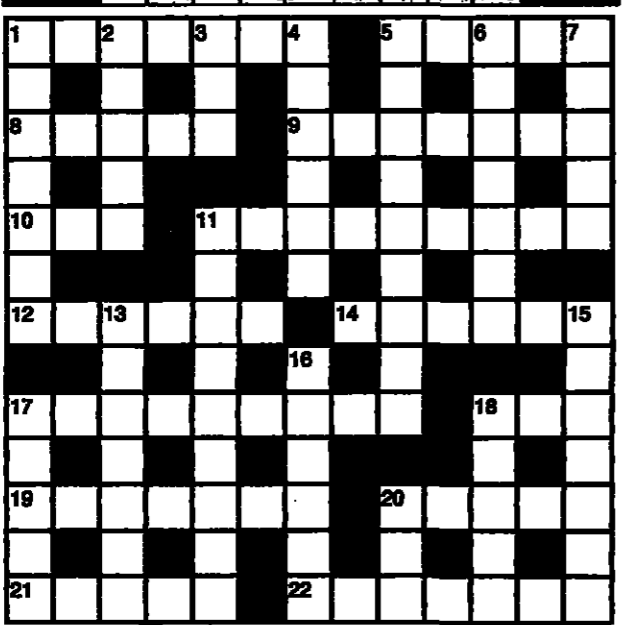
TAXPAYERS and accountants are struggling under a tyranny of errors, delays and minuscule tax demands generated by the self-assessment system that was introduced by the Inland Revenue last year.

amazed when the wife was sent a tax refund of 40p while at the same time her husband was charged 30p.

clients' affairs because of mistakes by Revenue staff. The biggest complaints were of two tax returns being sent to the same person, lengthy delays in processing returns, demands issued to people who had paid tax or had no taxable income at all.

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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1396

ACROSS

- 1 Afternoon meal (4,3)
2 A fish: (bird) sit (5)
3 Little wood (5)
4 Fired clay (article) (7)
5 Poisonous snake (3)
6 Oedipus Rex playwright (9)
7 Depressing; economics such a science (Carlyle) (6)
8 Half an island; one man in a boat (Verone) (6)
9 Briefly return for contact (5,4)
10 Receiptable; shoot (game) (5)
11 Post-mortem (7)
12 (Sheep) feed; abrasion (5)
13 Poem of lament (5)
14 Overlook; disregard (7)

DOWN

- 1 Drawn: Rider - , author (7)
2 Band, collection (5)
3 Fasten: cup game (3)
4 Receive (6)
5 Slowly strain through (9)
6 A walker; a rose (7)
7 Pavans; horse's ankles (5)
8 Cheerfully careless (4-5)
9 Run away; sink (ship) (7)
10 Portion: part of line (maths) (7)
11 (US) ravine (6)
12 Make gentle fun of (5)
13 Mark on horse: burn (5)
14 Joke; silence (3)

We regret that Saturday's puzzle No 1395 was omitted

SOLUTION TO NO 1394 (FRIDAY'S PUZZLE)

ACROSS: 1 Cold 3 Blooded 8 Mineral 9 Audean 10 Apart 11 Abyssmal 13 Assiduus 17 Fiddler 19 Troll 20 Act/on 22 Cashier 23 Empress 24 City

DOWN: 1 Cymbal 2 Lend a hand 3 Belt and braces 4 Ovary 5 Did 6 Dandle 7 Brutus 12 Mussolini 14 Obvise 15 Efface 16 Flurry 18 Lance 21 Top

SOLUTION TO WEEKEND MAY BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO

ACROSS: 1 When shall we three meet again? 15 Re-abandon 16 Penance 17 Improve 18 Interim 19 Corporeal 20 Turnabout 21 Grandeur 23 Self-determination 24 Australasia 26 Herewith 28 Tempi 30 Entropy 32 Oven-gloves 34 Peaceful 37 Speaking-trumpet 39 Tea ceremony 40 Trompe-l'oeil 42 In the nick of time 45 Testator 46 Picture hat 47 Kildare 49 Let go 51 Exegesis 53 Purple heart 56 The Doctor's Dilemma 59 Armadillo 65 Incognito 66 Plays fair 67 An old head on young shoulders

Arab talk ray... Unabomber gets life sentence... Proud United... TV & RADIO... WEATHER... CROSSWORDS... LIBRARY... CHESS & BRIDGE... SPORT... BODY & MIND... LAW REPORT...

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